

Red ALLRT:

The AIDS Clinical Trials Group devises a new system for longterm clinical trials.

page 21

Roe-fessional:

The Texas lesbian who made abortions legal.

page 11

Pop action

Elizabeth Streb and Co.: pop dance at Zellerbach.

see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 26 years

Sacto Dems screw gays... again

by Marghe Covino

Last week a State Senate Committee comprised of a large majority of Democrats killed a civil rights bill that would have required government contractors to provide the same benefits to employees with domestic partners as are provided to married employees. It is similar to the landmark domestic partner ordinance that went into effect in San Francisco last year.

The bill, SB841, authored by State Senator Tom Hayden, D-Los Angeles, was defeated on a 4-2 vote. Four of the Democrats either voted against the bill, abstained, didn't show up, or didn't vote until after the bill went off call and then voted no. One of the Republicans, Senator Tim Leslie of Roseville, was also absent.

Charles Calderon, D-Whittier, was absent; outgoing Senate Pro Tem Bill Lockyer, D-Hayward, abstained; Jack O'Connell, D-Carpenteria, voted no; and Byron Sher did not vote while in committee, after which the bill went "on call." A Hayden aide told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "Sher waited until it was taken off call and everyone was out of committee, and then he voted no. I think he didn't want to do it in front of Tom."

John Burton, D-San Francisco, and Barbara Lee, D-Oakland, were the two who voted for the bill.

Lockyer and Calderon are both running for State Attorney General, and O'Connell is said to have a potentially tough re-election campaign coming up.

The bill required five votes to move out of the nine-member Judiciary Committee. "Only three of the committee members are Republican," a staffer said, "you do the math." Another insider said, "Some of them are facing tough election campaigns and they figured it was a loser and the Governor would veto it anyway, so why go out on a limb." Still another Capitol source said, "Hell, they can afford to do it to us. They don't really have anything to worry about. We're stuck. Where can we go? This is the only ballgame we've got and they know it, so they've been sticking it to us for a while now."

Jeffrey Kors, a civil rights attorney and author of the San Francisco ordinance, said, "This law is truly about equal pay for equal work." Cynthia Goldstein of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission testified

page 24 ►

Big plans for Pride '98 draw scrutiny

Critics leery of corporate contributions

by Mark Mardon

Gay pride, like Christmas, is fast becoming big business. That fact, whether people like it or not, is likely to be amply evident to those attending the 1998 San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Parade and Celebration (Pride 98) in June. It's also clear from what's going on behind the scenes as organizers attempt to pull the event together.

Attendees at Pride 98, which tentatively includes a parade up Market Street from the Embarcadero, along with a festival at Civic Center, may well see a better organized, more tightly run, flashier and more entertaining event than ever before. If so, it will be the result of the Pride Committee's having hired an experienced executive director, Teddy Witherington—who for years produced London Pride—to run the show in San Francisco. But parade and festival-goers will also see corporate logos from Hard Rock Cafe, Anheuser-Busch, and others emblazoned across official Pride publications and banners.

If all goes according to plans being developed by Witherington and the Pride Celebration Committee, festival-goers will be able



Pride Committee VP Calla Felicity, Executive Director Teddy Witherington, and board member Lindsusan Ulrich go over the agenda at the group's Jan. 20 meeting.

to pick up a slick *Pride 98* magazine, thick with ads, as glossy and fashionable as *Details* or *Vanity Fair*, and replete with snappy, upbeat articles, including "advertorials," the publishing industry's term for features aimed

at drawing in advertisers by portraying companies or products in a favorable light.

Currently the Pride 98 website (www.sf-pride.org) sports a host of sponsorship

page 18 ►

Reduced Supe stock?

Mayor has trouble finding Leal replacement

by Cynthia Laird

Apparently, Mayor Willie Brown is having a more difficult time than he expected finding someone to replace Susan Leal on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Brown said at his biweekly press availability Tuesday, January 20 that he is no closer to finding a new supervisor than he was two weeks ago at his last press briefing.

Leal was elected treasurer last November and was sworn into office January 8. She is the first openly Latina lesbian to hold the position that carries an annual salary of \$118,000. Her election cleared the way for Brown to name yet another person to the board; once he selects someone, he will have made an unprecedented five appointments since becoming mayor two years ago. Brown has said more than once that the paltry \$23,900 annual salary paid to supervisors is part of the reason he is having trouble finding someone.

Based on Brown's comments this week, whoever he selects is likely to be a Latino, a gay or lesbian, or both. Leal's leaving has left a void on both counts. Currently, Supervisor Jose Medina is the lone Latino voice on the board. The gay community saw its representation cut by a third: Leal's departure left only Tom Ammiano and Leslie Katz as gay

supervisors.

"I would also like to see the Latino community continue to be represented on that body," said the mayor. "The voters also decided to have two lesbians and one gay. I would hope we could find a way to keep the faith and keep the commitment in that regard."

But substance also appears to be part of the process. The mayor said that in his view, it's rare that legislation is pushed by any one supervisor, and he would like someone who can accomplish that job.

When asked if he was any closer to choosing a new supervisor, Brown brusquely responded, "No, we are not," before a reporter even finished asking the question. "I can't find anyone who suits my standards."

Brown did not answer a question about whom he would appoint, saying he would talk about what he is looking for in an appointee. "First, I'm looking for someone who is a real student of the business [of government], someone who can put together six or seven votes on important issues. That is a talent that is not easy to come by. Susan did it very well," the mayor said, referring to Leal's work tightening up the 49er stadium proposal before it went to voters last June.

Maintaining an election

He also said he's looking for a person "who is, in fact, electable," as the appointee

will have to run this November when the term expires. Brown pointed out that the five board seats up for election this year will be for two-year terms instead of the usual four years, because all 11 seats will be up in 2000 when the city returns to electing supervisors by districts. The specific boundaries of the


page 16 ►

INSIDE

ACT UP	21
BAR Talk	48
Classifieds	24
GLAAD	12
Mailstrom	7
Mister Marcus	46
Obituaries	20
Open Forum	6
Our Man Friday	9
Out & About	44
Out There	30
Personals	51
Sapphistication	10
Sports Complex	23

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Stumped Stumpo



Jane Philomen Ciland

The Board of Supes' Economic Development Transportation and Technology Committee, consisting of (l to r) Leslie Katz, Michael Yaki, Jose Medina and Leland Yee, met Jan. 20 to examine the issue of hate crimes on Muni. Muni chief Emilio Cruz sent an unprepared Chief of Operations Dave Stumpo in his place, which drew a rebuke from Yaki. The supe told Stumpo to sit down and listen to the testimony of the hate crime victims.

CARE council to discuss hiring of PWAs, ombudsperson

by Cynthia Laird

Funding and approval for a proposed ombudsperson who would be responsible for assisting clients of CARE-funded HIV/AIDS services will be on the agenda of the Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council when it meets this Monday, January 26. The Department of Public Health's AIDS Office learned a couple of weeks ago that San Francisco will be receiving \$36.4 million in federal Ryan White CARE funds this year — a cut of about 2.2 percent from last year. As a result, the planning council is expected to finalize its funding prioritizations for the various service categories.

Tom Calvanese, co-chair, said that the council has renewed the commitment made in its five-year plan to include people living with HIV/AIDS (PWA) at every level of planning, implementation, and evaluation by establishing three new areas of services designed specifically to create job opportu-

nities for PWAs. Approximately \$800,000 has been allocated to directly or indirectly assist PWAs in providing job opportunities. The three new areas are peer advocacy, practical support, and hiring PWAs for council support staff.

Details of this planning council support category, which has been budgeted at \$250,000 and includes the ombudsperson position proposal, also known as the consumer advocacy program, will be discussed at Monday's meeting, Calvanese said.

If approved, planning council support staff would provide administrative, clerical, and logistical support to the 40-member body. The funding cycle begins March 1.

Public comment is being encouraged for this meeting, as well as for future meetings, Calvanese said. A number of changes have occurred in the last year designed to make the council more accessible to PWAs. A PWA Caucus was formed and given official recognition by the council. The caucus holds regular meetings, as does the

council's community input committee. At Monday's meeting, as at every meeting, there is a public comment period, and each speaker will be given two minutes. Other agenda items include recommendations from the PWA Caucus regarding greater community accountability by increasing the participation of PWAs in the selection and evaluation of AIDS service organizations (ASO) that receive CARE-funded contracts.

"People living with HIV/AIDS are more involved in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of their service delivery system than ever before," said Calvanese. ▼

The planning council meeting starts at 4:30 p.m. in the sixth floor conference room at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, located at 10 United Nations Plaza, at Market and Seventh streets; use Civic Center Muni/BART station. The site is wheelchair-accessible.

Berkeley may support needle exchange

United Press International

Published reports say the Berkeley City Council may break the law to finance needle exchange to stem the spread of HIV.

The Contra Costa Times reports that Berkeley already provides \$40,000 annually to a program called the Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution (NEED) so the group can buy what it needs — with the exception of needles. Supporters, including the city's Community Health Commission, now want the council to end a ban on using the money to buy syringes.

Councilwoman Dona Spring

said, "I'd be willing to go to jail to make a point out of it."

Openly gay councilman Kriss Worthington said city council will take up the matter this Tuesday, January 27 during an executive session.

In 1996, California Attorney General Dan Lungren threatened to sue Santa Clara County officials for using public money to finance a needle exchange, forcing them to back out of the plan. Last year the state blocked NEED from receiving a \$10,000 federal grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Berkeley City Council has twice before rejected lifting the ban, but this time Oakland attor-

ney Bill Simpich has offered to defend the city for free.

Worthington said the matter was recommended to the council by a unanimous vote of the Community Health Commission; one of its members is Scott Halem, who was acquitted twice by juries in Berkeley and Oakland when he was prosecuted for distributing needles. Halem co-founded needle exchange programs in both East Bay cities.

Studies have shown that needle exchange programs reduce the rate of HIV, AIDS, tuberculosis, hepatitis, and other communicable diseases among injection drug users. But critics argue that such programs undermine efforts to end substance abuse. ▼

Imperial Teen helps STOP AIDS



Vicky Burdett

On Saturday, January 31, at 10 p.m., Imperial Teen will return home to San Francisco to headline *An Evening of Pop & Prevention*, a benefit concert for the STOP AIDS Project, at The Bottom of the Hill, 1235 17th St. at Texas.

This will mark Imperial Teen's first performance since work began on their second album, due this March. Also appearing is itchy kitty and Scenic Vermont. Tickets are \$8 and are available through TicketWeb and can be charged by phone at 510.601.TWEB (8932) or on-line at www.ticketweb.com. Proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to the STOP AIDS Project.

There's still time to go to the AIDS summit

by Cynthia Laird

Final plans are being ironed out in preparation for Mayor Willie Brown's first Summit on HIV/AIDS that will take place this Tuesday, January 27; conference organizers told the B.A.R. that interested people can still call to register for the free, daylong event that will be held at the Masonic Auditorium on Nob Hill. Dr. Helene Gayle, director of the National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, will be the

keynote speaker.

The mayor's office began planning the summit last July. A 200-page report containing the summit's agenda, findings, and recommendations will be given to people when they arrive. Panel presentations on a variety of HIV/AIDS issues, including access to therapies; adherence to treatments; insurance issues; testing, surveillance, and reporting; prevention; housing; and workplace entry and re-entry will be the primary focus of the summit. There are about 100 policy recommendations that will come out of the summit.

Advance registration is re-

quired and the mayor's office said security will be tight; there will be time set aside for public comments throughout the day, but absolutely no disruptions or disrespect to the speakers will be tolerated. ▼

To reserve a seat, call (415) 554-6657. Registration starts at 7:30 a.m.; the summit is from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. The Masonic Auditorium is located at 1111 California Street, between Taylor and Jones streets.

SRO crowd cheers Forrester in Alameda

by Vicky Kolakowski

Over 300 people of a variety of faiths, races, and sexual orientations attended a packed community-wide potluck dinner on Thursday, January 15 at Christ Episcopal Church in Alameda. The dinner was organized by the ad-hoc group Alamedans Together, which includes leaders from gay/lesbian group Out On The Island (OOTI). The potluck was part of "Campaign for Civility," which brings together a diverse group of local citizens frustrated by the increasing intolerance and hostility in public discourse about controversial issues, including gay and lesbian civil rights.

The dinner's program included remarks by Victoria Forrester, the Alameda school teacher who was recently cleared of charges filed by an irate parent after her class held a student-initiated discussion of the coming out episode of the sitcom *Ellen*.

"You are a brave community," Forrester told the crowd, which had cheered as she took the stage. Framing the issue in terms of academic freedom, she commended and thanked the many Alamedans who rallied behind her. Stating that hers was a "message of hope," Forrester declared that "tonight is just the beginning."

The event's date was chosen to coincide with Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, and the program included a skit by Forrester's sixth grade class on Rosa Parks's



Victoria Forrester

famous refusal to ride in the back of a bus, and a recitation of King's "I Have a Dream" speech. The students concluded with a new speech based on King's original speech, but having a more global emphasis and an inclusive reference to sexual orientation.

Forrester's class was one of several groups of children performing during the program. The performances by the children and the potluck dinner gave the event an informal feel, but the speeches by politicians and community leaders indicated the seriousness of the evening's message.

Alameda Social Services and Human Relations Board (SSHRB) member Ken Werner told the crowd that the SSHRB was bothered by the tone of recent local newspaper articles and letters and by discussions at City Council

meetings. He read the text of a recent SSHRB statement, which was approved by the city council as a proclamation declaring the City of Alameda to be a "hate free city."

Packed despite DARE

Event organizers were initially concerned that a time conflict with an event held by the local youth drug awareness program DARE would lead to a low turnout. Instead, the attendance far exceeded the seating, leaving latecomers to eat standing along the walls.

Alameda Mayor Ralph Appenzato originally intended to make only a brief early visit to the potluck on his way to the DARE event, but the size of the crowd prompted him to return to make a speech during the program.

"Don't let this die," Appenzato told the group. He added, "There's no God up there that separates us."

That comment apparently referred to the numerous religious condemnations made against gay and lesbian people in public meetings and newspaper letters. The remarks were consistent with a drastic reversal in favor of supporting gay and lesbian people by Appenzato, whose refusal to issue a gay pride proclamation in 1995 led to the founding of OOTI. Appenzato concluded by noting that "our diversity is our greatest strength." Other political notables in attendance were congressional candidate State Senator Barbara Lee, Supervisor Wilma Chan, and a large number of local elected officials. ▼

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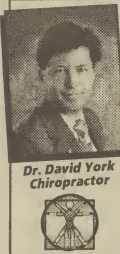
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Town Hall meeting Wednesday to focus on anal cancer

by Shan Schwartz

UCSF is seeking participants for a new study on a precancer and cancerous affliction that affects a significant number of gay men.

Anal neoplasia, which is the growth of abnormal tissue around the anus, affects a significant portion of gay men with a history of receptive anal intercourse. The abnormal tissue growth may range from simple warts to precancerous growths to actual cancer.

A UCSF study team will provide information about anal neoplasia, present results from a recently completed anal neoplasia study, and discuss a new upcoming study at a town hall meeting this Wednesday, January 28, from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Metropolitan Community Church/SF, located at 150 Eureka Street. Refreshments will be served.

According to the study team's report, it has been known by the medical community that prior to the HIV epidemic, anal cancer was more common among gay men than is cervical cancer in women. Little is known about anal cancer in HIV-positive men,

and until the recent study was performed, little was known about the natural history of potentially precancerous changes of the anus.

But unlike most other cancers that occur in gay men, anal cancer may be preventable. Gay men have a high risk of having or developing changes around the anus or anal canal that may lead, in some cases, to the development of invasive anal cancer.

UCSF's recent study shows that HIV-positive men with a history of receptive anal intercourse are at high risk of developing potentially pre-cancerous changes in the anal canal. HIV-negative men with a history of receptive anal intercourse are also at significant risk, but less so than in HIV-positive men.

The study found that almost all HIV-positive men (93%) and the majority of HIV-negative men (61%) have anal human papillomavirus (HPV) infection. Over a four-year follow-up period, more than half of HIV-positive men with CD4 counts less than 500 developed high-grade anal neoplasia, which may be the precursor to anal cancer. Thirty-three percent of HIV-positive men in the study with CD4 counts greater than 500 also developed high-grade anal neoplasia.

In the same follow-up period, only 17% of HIV-negative men developed high-grade anal neoplasia. The main risk factors in the

study were HIV positivity, lower CD4 counts, and anal HPV infection.

Knowledge of anal neoplasia is important, because identification of the lesions with an anal Pap smear and treatment may prevent the development of anal cancer, just as identification of cervical neoplasia with a cervical Pap smear and treatment prevents cervical cancer in women.

The next study, for which UCSF is currently soliciting participants, seeks to better understand this important disease in gay men. The team hopes to learn more about the natural history of neoplasia, to determine who is at risk, how quickly the changes progress, and who should be considered for a screening program.

Any gay man, regardless of HIV status, is invited to participate in the study and have the opportunity to help scientists better understand an important disease in gay men. Every six months, all participants will receive an anal Pap smear and anal examination, HIV-positive participants will have an HIV viral load and a CD4/CD8 count, and HIV-negative men will have an HIV antibody test.

All procedures and testing are performed free of charge. ▼

To enroll in the study or for further information, call (415) 476-2909.



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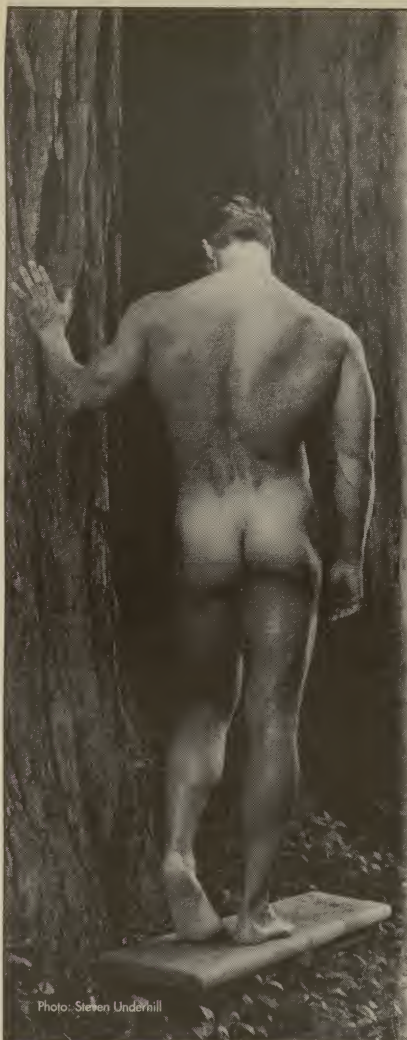
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Photo: Steven Underhill

Catholic Charities' forum on gay kids Saturday in Walnut Creek

by Cynthia Laird

An event in Walnut Creek this Saturday, January 24, will provide further information on "Always Our Children: A Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministers." The document was published by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops last September, and is considered by some to be an important breakthrough in relations between Catholics and gay people.

The daylong program, including lunch, is sponsored by the Family Law Office of the Diocese of Oakland, and Catholic Charities' task force on outreach to gay and lesbian communities and their families. Priests, deacons, pastoral ministers, parents, and family members are invited to attend. Scheduled speakers include Bishop John Cummins of the Diocese of Oakland; Richard McCord, staff member of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Marriage

and Family, and executive director of the Secretariat on Family, Laity, Women, and Youth; and parents of gays and lesbians.

Catholic Charities of the East Bay is the largest provider of human services in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Its professional staff works with volunteers to administer programs in counseling; employment, training and education; community and parish social ministry; and housing and emergency services. Catholic Charities works in partnership with East Bay parishes and other community-based agencies.

Cost for the program is \$15 per person. ▼

To register or for more information, call Rita Billeci at (510) 680-8510, ext. 201, or Father Jim Schexnayder at (510) 834-5657, ext. 3188. The event will be held from 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. at St. John Vianney Parish Hall, 1650 Ygnacio Valley Road.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Rick Gerhardt

High times

Brownie Mary Rathbun and gubernatorial candidate Dennis Peron celebrate the first anniversary of the Cannabis Cultivators Club at its Market Street site January 17. The CCC has undergone a wild year of successes and state harassment, but the overflow crowd at the party, who ate a spaghetti dinner and carrot cake while cheering on singer Dave Nash and the Near East Dance Group, was excited and upbeat about the CCC's future.

Sunshine debate heats up finance committee

by Mark Mardon

Dozens of San Franciscans crowded in to speak to the merits of Supervisor Tom Ammiano's proposed Sunshine Ordinance for nonprofit organizations, in an extraordinarily packed meeting of the Board of Supervisors' Finance Committee Wednesday, January 21.

At issue were whether nonprofit organizations receiving city funding ought to be required to disclose upon request all their financial records and minutes of meetings, and to open all of their executive, regular, and special board meetings to the public.

Also discussed were whether the Board of Supervisors should be empowered to appoint a non-voting community member to the board of every nonprofit organization that contracts with the city in excess of \$100,000.

"With nonprofits growing by leaps and bounds to handle shifting social needs," said Ammiano, "issues of accountability have arisen. The stakeholders in the organizations want to operate in an atmosphere of trust."

"Every institution needs to be reformed all the time," said Tom Nolan of Project Open Hand, who supported Ammiano's idea of forming a task force to further explore the issues. Nolan said that while his agency has a fine grievance procedure in place, and that its formal and informal means of accountability work extremely well, he nevertheless supports the idea behind the proposed ordinance.

John Kaelin, a member of the board of Larkin Street Youth Center, said his board has "deep concern" about the ordinance.

"The implication is that our existing accountability requirements are somehow inadequate," he complained. "That's both an unfortunate and incorrect as-

sumption." He said Larkin Street has its own internal review procedures. He said the ordinance would not help the agency serve its clients.

Michael Petrelis, who was denied services by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) after he became openly critical of the organization, held up a dollar bill in front of Board President Barbara Kaufman, and asked how he could know what parts of it were spent for what purposes by the SFAF and other AIDS Service Organizations.

"There's no way to find out how it's utilized," said Petrelis, ripping the dollar to shreds.

Brian Greenberg of Walden House said he believes the proposed ordinance is unnecessary and expensive. It would demand too much staff time, he asserted, and warned that many of his board members would resign if the draft ordinance becomes law.

A representative of the city's Department of Public Health said her agency has a very selective approval process for nonprofit organizations. They review the programs within the agencies, and assess the quality of services and finances. The reviews are performed by teams within the agency, including staff and advisory committee members—but are not public reviews, she admitted, although the results are made public.

Directors of the Sunshine Commission were present in force at the meeting, including commission chair Bob Planthold and Bay Guardian publisher Bruce Brugmann.

Planthold said the goal of open government is accountability. "For city departments, there's full scrutiny," he said. "When services are contracted out, there's not always full scrutiny. The same money is involved, but the scrutiny is different." The alternative to public access to nonprofits, he

added, is for citizens to take their complaints through the government, which is prohibitively time-consuming.

SFAF Board President Paul Wisotzky testified at the hearing that the proposed ordinance is "a ruse." He claimed that SFAF has open board meetings, even though current procedures require prospective attendees to petition for an invitation to meetings in advance. According to Wisotzky, the extra level of bureaucracy is necessary.

"Members of our staff have been physically and violently assaulted by members of the public," he said, "and we have a duty to protect them." ▼

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Kevorkian helps SF MTF die

United Press International

Police are investigating the death of a 35-year-old transsexual with AIDS as a possible assisted suicide involving Dr. Jack Kevorkian.

Kevorkian attorney Michael Schwartz says the death was attended by his client and an assistant, Kalamazoo psychiatrist Dr. Georges Reding.

Schwartz identified the dead woman as Carrie Hunter of San Francisco, who was born male but

underwent a sex-change operation.

Detectives found the body Sunday night in a Pontiac motel. But police are not commenting on the investigation.

Schwartz says Hunter was in "terrific pain" from AIDS-related complications. He says her parents traveled from Alabama to be with her before the death.

Kevorkian has attended nearly 90 suicides in Michigan since 1990. Despite state laws against the practice the 69-year-old retired pathologist has never been convicted. ▼

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Err fresheners

Two weeks ago in this space, in an editorial entitled "Cover your ass," we reported that an HIV-positive defendant in the case *Guevara v. Superior Court of Santa Cruz County* was convicted of assault with a deadly weapon for having consensual sex without informing his partner of his HIV status. As we said at the time, the case was late-breaking. Now that we've had the opportunity to consult with our friends at the AIDS Legal Referral Panel, we'd like to clear up some confusion we may inadvertently have caused.

The defendant in this case *has not yet been convicted of anything*. Instead, the court ruled what charges may be brought against a person who had unprotected sex with a minor female, knowing he was HIV-positive.

In addressing whether someone could be charged with assault with a deadly weapon if the sexual partner consented to the sex, the court ruled that *consent* is irrelevant. Instead, what is relevant is whether the sex is likely to result in HIV exposure. In this instance, the court ruled that vaginal intercourse is not likely enough to result in HIV transmission to support a charge of aggravated assault.

While the court dismissed the aggravated assault charge, the defendant was still answerable to a charge of sex with a minor, or "statutory rape." When a person who knows he is HIV-positive commits a sex crime (sex with a minor, for instance), the California Penal Code mandates a sentence "enhancement" of three years. The court ruled this 10-year-old law to be constitutional.

Contrary to what we said two weeks ago, the ruling does not require you to inform your partner of your HIV status (although there may be plenty of other reasons to do so). It remains a troubling ruling for many reasons, even though the question of arguably greatest concern — whether one could be charged with aggravated assault

for engaging in unprotected sex — was in this case answered in the negative.

For more information, we suggest people contact the AIDS Legal Referral Panel at (415) 291-5454. And we apologize for the error.

Now that we're in a correcting mode, we'd like to urge the San Francisco AIDS Foundation to recognize its own error in trying to fight concerned citizens' calls for more openness and accountability at AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs). This month's *Out* magazine quotes SFAF's communications director dismissing community support for sunshine as a "temper tantrum." Even if that characterization were correct — which it isn't — it would not diminish the need for ASO accountability. The history of the world is full of temper tantrums that have been justified and affecting; two actions that spring immediately to mind are throwing tea into Boston Harbor and throwing money changers out of the temple.

So far, SFAF bigwigs have resorted to saying the people behind the sunshine drive are misogynist, devoid of integrity, crazy, and prejudiced wealthy white guys with an ax to grind against services to people of color. And now this. All of it untrue.

It's time for SFAF to stop being so defensive. As every good parent knows, the first thing to do when faced by a tantrum is find out if the problem is serious: if it's because of pain, for example, or a diaper very much in need of attention. Such would seem to be the case here, and we suggest that SFAF stop dismissing the cries and ignoring that foul smell in the air; it should take a good look at the situation and see if the crap has piled up too deep to go on without a change.

Speaking of things that are full of crap, it is worth noting that this week, the Republican Party decided the issue of partial-birth abortions was too divisive to be used as a litmus test among GOP candidates — and made the issue of partial-birth abortions a litmus test among President Clinton's nominees for surgeon general.

Senator John Ashcroft held a press conference with Christian Coalition leaders — after all, they own him — on this, *Roe v. Wade's* anniversary week, to launch a torpedo into the latest nominee's flank. As expected, most of the talk denounced Dr. David Satcher's refusal to sign away a pregnant woman's life or health in cases where she may need that procedure.

How interesting that although most extreme right-wing lawmakers can't imagine the necessity of aborting a fetus for the protection of the mother, they can abort a proposal for the protection of their precious party. If it is true, as party leaders agreed this week, that the issue is too divisive to unleash upon its members, American women deserve an explanation why it is not too divisive to unleash upon the rest of us. Republicans continue to insist they can do a better job of governing than the liberals across the aisle, but it certainly weakens their case when it becomes apparent they'll ask others to undergo what they have no stomach for themselves.

Not that there are all that many liberals — or even progressives, or even protectors of the social fabric — on the Democrats' side these days. The cowardice of the Dems in Sacramento this week was appalling. We'd vote them out of office, but there isn't a huge corps of volunteers to take their places (at least, not good ones). This situation is really intolerable.

Maybe it's time for a temper tantrum. ▼



Editorial

Why hold an AIDS summit?

by Marcus A. Conant, M.D. and
Thomas J. Coates, Ph.D.

The combination antiretroviral therapies that have become available in the past 18 months have revolutionized the treatment of HIV/AIDS and offered real hope to patients and physicians for the first time in the 17 years of the AIDS epidemic. We clearly do not have a cure, but recent success strongly suggests that HIV/AIDS will soon become a chronic manageable disease, for those individuals fortunate enough to have access to the new therapies and the abilities both physical and emotional to adhere to the arduous treatment schedules.

As with any revolution, change is inevitable. These new treatments mandate a total change in our public health paradigm. The AIDS epidemic will never be the same again. If we can now effectively treat individuals who are HIV positive and prevent disease progression, can we also stop the transmission of the HIV virus by aggressive treatment, just as we did with tuberculosis? How should we respond to calls for testing everyone in the country who is at risk for HIV? Should we report them to public health officials by name and do contact tracing to identify and treat exposed individuals?

The healthcare delivery system in this country is a train wreck. How do we ensure in this fragmented and inadequate system that every individual who would benefit from the new treatments in fact has the resources to obtain these drugs?

Adherence to the treatment schedules that are necessary is a formidable task. Many of the peoples infected with HIV face other serious life issues. It is one thing for a physician to prescribe a drug, it's quite another for the patient to obtain the drug and take it as directed.

Antiretroviral therapy costs between

\$15,000 and \$20,000 a year. Every study to date indicates that infected individuals may need to remain on therapy for life. Since many health policies and government programs mandate that they stop providing benefits after either a certain time period such as five years, or after a certain dollar amount, how can we be certain that all infected individuals will have the insurance benefits to continue to receive therapy for life?

Now that many AIDS patients feel better, many wish to return to work. They may, however, not be able to work a 40-hour week, and often they do not wish to return to the job they previously held. Many patients know that their employer cannot fire them as long as they receive disability benefits; but when they return to work, they may face the prospect of being transferred to some inhospitable location or assignment. Their predicted resignation would then result in a termination of their healthcare insurance and their option to return to disability if their antiretroviral treatment were to fail.

Finally, with the introduction of effective combination antiretroviral therapy, many people have returned to behaviors including unprotected sex and substance abuse, which once again places them and their partners at high risk of infection with HIV. How, in the face of all of the treatment euphoria, do we maintain an effective program of prevention and education in our community?

How must AIDS prevention and social science programs change as the demographics of the epidemic shift increasingly to lower-income people, women, and people of color? How can we better integrate AIDS services with other health and social services, such as mental health, substance

abuse, housing, and job training?

These questions will not be easily answered. Mayor Willie Brown, however, has had the insight to understand that the questions need to be clearly articulated, that experts and community activists need to begin to debate these issues, and that once again, San Francisco has the unique opportunity of providing answers not only for our own citizens, but for the nation.

The Mayor's AIDS Summit — to be held at the Masonic Auditorium on Tuesday, January 27 — is not, therefore, another program to talk about the new treatments.

Rather, it is a policy program to talk about the implications of the new treatment. This is a unique opportunity to provide policy advice to the city about how to deal with HIV/AIDS now.

There will be broad representation from the community. The Mayor is inviting health policy

experts, AIDS physicians and researchers, community-based organization leaders and patients and their advocates, as well as police officers, religious leaders, business and labor leaders, and other concerned people from around the country. This is an opportunity for everyone to participate in defining policies that will directly impact our community well into the 21st century.

This is the beginning of chapter two. Don't miss it.

The Summit is open to the public and is free. Prior registration is required. To register, call (415) 554-6657. ▼

Drs. Conant and Coates co-chair the Mayor's AIDS Summit Committee. Dr. Coates is the Director of the AIDS Research Institute, University of California Medical Center, San Francisco.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Be careful out there

An open letter to anyone in the gay community:
I am a 23-year-old lesbian who works in the Castro. I have always felt very safe and among friends, even when I went out at night. A very traumatic event occurred one night while I was out at a gay bar (I will withhold their name, because it is not their fault – they have good security, bouncers, and wonderful bartenders), and I feel it is important to share my experience so everyone knows what is going on in our “safe” areas. I left my drink unattended for two minutes, and in that time someone slipped a date-rape drug in it. I had only had two beers prior to this drink, certainly not enough to make me drunk. I remember dancing, and lights, and feeling very fuzzy, and that is all. The next thing I remember is waking up with my own blood all over me and severe pain in my lower abdomen and genital area. I cleaned up and left in a frenzy, and called my girlfriend, who drove me to the emergency room. The doctors say I was repeatedly raped, and lab results show a common date-rape drug in my system. I have no memory of the night, other than waking up in my own worst nightmare.

I write this letter to warn others that even in a gay bar, even in our community, these things are happening. It is the worst thing I have ever had to deal with. Please, don't leave your drinks unattended! Don't accept a drink from a stranger! The person who did this is still out there – the police have a few leads, but since I have no memory of the incident, it is difficult to prosecute. I don't know if it was a man or a woman, or where it happened, or why it happened to me. The physical pain is almost gone, but the emotional pain will be in me for a long time. I urge my friends, co-workers, everyone – male and female, gay, straight, whatever – be careful. We are not safe, even in our own gay bars and community. This is painful for me to write, but if it stops just one person from getting sexually assaulted, it is well worth it.

Name withheld by request
San Francisco

Mediocre Victorian

At the site of the new GLBT Community Center, there should be a building that celebrates the history, hopes, dreams, spirit, and essence of the GLBT community. It should be as innovative, creative, and beautiful as the community itself. The Fallon building does none of this.

The Fallon building in no way reflects the history, essence or vision of the GLBT community. Architecturally, it is a mediocre example of Victorian Architecture. Better examples already exist in the city, with their historical context in place.

The GLBT Center should be for, by, and about the GLBT community. If the city wants to help, it should do so by funding the design fees for an outstanding gay architect (LBorT). San Francisco has been, and is still the leader, worldwide, of the GLBT revolution. Our building should reflect nothing less. It should be architecturally significant around the world, and as beautiful as the GLBT community.

Thanks for your ear.

Walt S. Chambers, architectural designer
San Francisco

Surviving prostate cancer

Regarding Edward Van Egri's letter dated 1/8/98 about P.S.A. test for Prostate Cancer, I would like to recommend the Transrectal Ultrasonography (TRUS) test to verify the results of the P.S.A. test. Also, the TRUS test help to decide whether a biopsy should be performed.

Today in America, every 13 minutes another American male dies of Prostate Cancer, and every 3 minutes a new case is diagnosed. One third of men over 50 years have microscopic Prostate tumor. However, Prostate Cancer can often be treated successfully when found early.

My name is David Jones, President and CEO of Prostate Cancer Resource, a nonprofit tax-exempt charitable organization which provides information, education and counseling in order to remove the stigma associated with Prostate Cancer.

Information is a key to survival. Prostate Cancer Resource is proud to announce our Crusade Against Prostate Cancer with a 'Ride For Life' event in San Francisco on March 29, 1998 to fund a 24-hour telephone information service providing confidential, personalized attention to each caller with information on screening and early detection, diagnoses, current treatment options, and research studies and advances. This 24-hour information service will be the first in California and would help save lives.

For more information, please call our nationwide toll free number, 1-888-983-7833.

David Jones
President and CEO, Prostate Cancer Resource
Vallejo, CA

SFAF on the phone

A week before Christmas, I got a call from the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, searching (as ever) for more donations. I've donated to them anywhere from one to four times a year for the past several, and they're only one of several groups to whom I donate. (Note: I have no opinion on the Michael Petrelis/Pat Christen flap.)

After telling me that SFAF has helped 130,000 people this last year – hmm, that's one person in five for the city of San Francisco, or probably one in 25 or so for the entire Bay Area; it's more likely 130,000 separate incidents of “help” rather than individuals helped – the phone person launched into his pitch.

“It's the end of the year, lots of homeless people, blah blah blah. Can you give \$250? No? Well, we don't know until we ask.” Funny, \$250 is five times what I ever gave before. If I agree to \$250, will they be asking for a minimum of \$1,000 next time?

“Can we get you to give at least what you did last time, \$55?” Um, well, maybe. (A later look at my check register reveals that my last donation to them – which cleared at least two weeks before the call – was less than \$55. They lied, um, were mistaken.) Put me down for \$45, I said. (Making it an even \$100 for the quarter, if they had been being truthful.)

“Good, can we put that on your Visa or MasterCard? We take American Express and Discover.” Visions of 20% fees on top of the \$45 come floating along. No, just send me a reminder envelope, I say.

“That's really expensive for us. We'd rather just put it on your card.” Um, no. “Do you have a debit card? We could use that. Are you concerned about the security issue?”

No, just send me a reminder envelope, I say. “Okay. You'll get this back to us by the 1st?” Only if it arrives in time, I tell him. “It will go out in tomorrow's mail.” I'll try.

“We really need it by the 1st. We're doing our budget for next year, and we need to know how much we can spend.” Funny, I thought my money was to go to help homeless this year. That's what he implied at the start of the call. And further, SFAF desperately needs my piddly \$45 to do up their budget to serve 130,000 people? I don't really think it's going to make that much difference in a budget of multiple millions. I'll try, I say again.

“We really need it by the 1st.” (Money grubber, I think.) If “I'll try” isn't good enough, maybe you should put me down for nothing, I say. That pretty much ended the conversation, and I hung up (politely) shortly thereafter.

Nothing showed up by when I left for the holidays, and nothing has since then, either; I guess I was put down for “nothing.” If a reminder note does arrive, I'll make the donation – because I promised. But never again to SFAF (by phone, mail, or Santa Claus on the street corner), and never to any telephone donation seeker who pushes for orders of magnitude more than I've donated in the past, or lies to me about my recent donations, or pushes to have me use my credit card, or pushes me about a payment deadline, or urges me to donate via a method I don't want to use. I make these donations because I want to; I will not be guilted into it.

(Additionally: if I paid by credit card, they would get the money faster, but they would lose out in the long run because, gee, I wouldn't be able to send in a donation matching form from the company I work for. Is \$45 tomorrow better than \$45 in a couple weeks and another \$45 in a couple months?)

Jim Drew
San Mateo, CA

Sunshine or eternal darkness

Re: “Sunshine is good for all.”

I, Velma, Queen of all witches, do declare as of this date forward (January 15, 1998) all those who have jumped on the AIDS bandwagon for their own ill-gotten gains shall be cursed and shall look forward, henceforth, to only the dark of eternal torment.

Velma, Queen of all witches
San Francisco

Wolf call: Boycott AOL

Because of AOL's cooperation with the US Navy in releasing private information regarding Timothy R. McVeigh's AOL profile, I am canceling my service with AOL. I also strongly encourage anyone else concerned with AOL's actions to also cancel and let them know why.

To make this as convenient for you as possible, may I recommend hooked.net or wenet.net as very reliable for not a lot of money, and bigger.net provides free Internet service with unlimited e-mails for only \$10 a year. They can be contacted at www.bigger.net.com.

Please consider this carefully. Our rights are not yet secured, and inaction is the same as approval. Please tell your friends.

Wolf Mirasol
San Francisco

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United employee's perspective

As a long-term employee of United Airlines, it is difficult for me to appreciate the comments of Jimmy White from the Gay Men's Chorus regarding the domestic partner benefits issue currently under litigation between our city and the Air Transport Association (ATA). After reading White's lengthy remarks in your December 25th edition, I would like to share a different view with your readers.

It is my understanding that United Airlines led city representatives to believe that domestic partner benefits would be addressed in an appropriate and satisfactory manner shortly following the last airport lease negotiation. Perhaps the question should have been asked: Appropriate and satisfactory to whom?

I think it is fair to say the company's action, through the ATA, demonstrated quite an opposite tactic from what city representatives anticipated. Further, it is my distinct impression that United provided the impetus for the ATA to take legal action against the city in the first place.

Mr. White uses the expression "show me the money" with regard to the cash required to support his recreational organization, implying - I guess - that compromises must be made in accepting donations. White also rejoices over the free airline tickets given to his group. With regard to the gifts his organization has received, let me repeat something Bette Davis might have said as the character Margo Channing: "How nice for you, Eve!" It seems to me that for any organization to be principled, there is often a price to pay... draw your own conclusion there.

Speaking of money and pay, let's consider what domestic partner benefits represent beyond the philosophical concept of fairness and respect. Equity is a more practical word. Domestic partner benefits encompass issues of insurance coverage, survival benefits, and something as basic as a partner's flight pass charges - take San Francisco/Sydney, for example: Is it fair that one employee's "partner" (eligible for the "companion" fare only) must pay approximately \$150 above and beyond what another employee pays for their "spouse" on the exact same round-trip flights in the same class of service? Unlike the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, United employees aren't getting any free tickets, and one's "companion" partner must pay a lot more than a "spouse" to use a day-to-day benefit. What's fair about that? \$Cha-ching\$.

Mr. White references a gay employee organization in his comments. I am aware of only one such organization at United, which, in the opinion of many, should not claim to represent any more than it really does: a tiny group of non-union employees, most of whom reside in Los Angeles: Whoopee!

One union leader believes what will most influence a change in domestic partner policy at United and all the airlines is the tide of public opinion. Therefore, vocal patrons should be sure to write a letter to their airline from time to time referencing their status as a (valued) customer or Frequent Flyer. My friends and I appreciate your expressed support for the larger issue of equal treatment for all employees in the workplace.

Name withheld by request
San Francisco

Sacrificing animals

If you can't make an intelligible rebuttal to the animal rights people, then just hold your tongue. Your so-called rebuttals are bereft of any cognitive content. Maybe we humans have a right to lord it over the rest of the animal kingdom, sacrificing them to our higher purposes, but then you need to make the hard arguments as to why we have that right, if in fact we do.

Does our greater intelligence (B.A.R. editors excepted) give us the right to sacrifice the lower animals for our ends, or do we have special obligations to treat these animals in a more humane precisely because we possess the greater insight to do so? Better watch the implications of that Social Darwinist reasoning, because it might come back to bite you in the ass on other issues. Fur coats, factory farming, trapping, cosmetic testing and testing for diseases are not equal issues as I see it. Some may have considerable merit and are things we could do now. Clothing, dietary changes (not incidentally related to diseases that kill many more people than AIDS), elimination of the "sport" of hunting, etc., are things that we can start to change now. The case of lab testing can be dealt with in more stages (assuming some of the claims that you make in its behalf are true). Your claim that people don't have the right to advocate the termination of animal torture & killing (let's call it what it is) begs the question you seek to resolve by your arbitrary fiat. It's too bad you're "weary" of the subject, but I guess millions of animals are weary of being tortured and killed.

Your stupidity a few months back of claiming that only hundreds of millions of animals instead of billions are being killed reminds me of the Holocaust Revisionists who claim that only 1 or 2 million Jews instead of 6 million were killed by the Germans in WW2. To which my response is, so what?

Michael P. Hardesty
Oakland, CA

PWA treatment in prison

I'm in prison at the California State Prison - Corcoran, and I'm hoping the B.A.R. can help me and my fellow HIV/AIDS-positive inmates out somehow.

You see, this prison I'm in is a hellhole with no compare! Prisoners with HIV/AIDS are treated in a despicable manner by the staff and the administration here, and it is getting worse every day. There are approximately 175 HIV-positive inmates living in one building (3A03), and we are screwed in one way or another every time we turn around! People who are taking protease inhibitors have to practically beg to get their medications on time, because they are only given a seven-day supply at a time, and it is not unusual for the pharmacy to deliver the medications one or two days late. As anyone with any common sense knows, that causes resistance!

The doctors that we see are not HIV specialists, and therefore they are not aware of our special needs and sometimes prescribe medications that have bad interactions with each other. Another serious problem with the doctors here is that they are very, very slow to prescribe pain medications. At other prisons (such as Vacaville-CMF and CMC-East San Luis Obispo), patients have no problem getting their pain treated, because the doctors there are HIV specialists and understand that HIV/AIDS causes many complications and opportunistic infections which are severely painful and warrant serious pain medications. There are a multitude of other problems for PWAs here at Corcoran which are detrimental to our overall health. Men's lives are possibly being threatened by the negligence and utter contempt with which we are treated at all times day in and day out. I fervently hope that B.A.R. decides to print this letter, and that someone/anyone out there who reads it will decide to try and help us in some form or fashion. Thank you.

Kevin Dean
California State Prison - Corcoran

A fare deal

It was good to see your editorial on what passes for cab "service" here in San Francisco ["Death and Taxis," January 15]. In passing, someone should refer to how cabbies demand every penny of the fare, but never are willing to give change under a dollar, how meters are never turned off when the cab pulls to a stop, and how additional fares are demanded at every opportunity.

John Frederic Millen
San Francisco

Secret shame

I am responding to Victoria Secret's Jan. 8 letter regarding an article in the ETVC Newsletter written by Sandra Brewer. I was appalled by the vitriolic nature of Secret's criticism. Since many ETVC members read the B.A.R., as a former representative and Newsletter editor for the group, I felt compelled to comment. Although Secret quoted the 2-character dialogue from the sit-com Brewer reviewed, the reply, "I didn't say that" was given short shrift. It was a snappy comeback to the first, which I agree was homophobic. However, Brewer's own comments about the cross-dresser "being portrayed as a responsible member of society" and "public acceptance replacing ridicule" addressed transphobia, not sexual orientation. Since many trans- or drag characters are often portrayed as less than positive (hookers, criminals, deranged killers), Brewer was noting a positive portrayal. The fact that gender presentation and sexual orientation are separate issues but are often merged by an ignorant public can be basis for trans- and homophobia. Since the majority of men who don dresses are straight (75% or more), and the majority of gay men do not participate in drag, homophobia has become a reality that many groups must face. Although Secret may not have known that Brewer is post op, living 24/7 as a woman, to put her name in quotes seemed rather mean-spirited.

Secret went on to dis the straight cross-dresser who "prefers to prance around S.F. one night a month, patronizing businesses... operated by gay people who are not 'normal' or 'responsible'". Interesting, since Secret is herself a straight cross-dresser patronizing gay businesses in order to cocktail waitress in drag. Perhaps the lady doth protest too much. Invoking Ginny Knuth's name after her recent passing was a cheap shot. However, Secret need not worry about Ginny's networking work being for naught, as a large crowd of truly diverse people turned out on a rainy weeknight at Marlena's last month to remember her and renew old friendships.

My advice to Victoria is to read articles more carefully before being so critical, and then do what gay, straight and trans folk who meet happily together at a popular SOMA nightclub are often seen doing, which breaks down barriers, misunderstandings and prejudice, i.e., "Shut up and dance!"

Francis Vavra
Mr. ETVC 1994, "Lord of Illusion" to the Full Moon
Court of Goth and Glamour
Berkeley, CA

Burton's back

by Wayne Friday

John Burton, then a young lawyer, was first elected to the California Assembly in 1964, along with another legislative freshman, **Willie Brown Jr.** Burton was not known in Sacramento for much other than being a firebrand liberal with a nasty temper, having a tendency to shoot from the hip, and possessing a talent for foul language. He, of course, was also known for being the younger brother of the powerful Representative **Philip Burton**, and was thought by many to simply be a clog in the so-called "Burton Machine."

After serving 10 years in the Assembly, John Burton won a seat in Congress in 1974, always serving in the shadow of his older brother, Phil. After eight years in Congress, Burton hit bottom, addicted to both cocaine and alcohol. Things were so bad for the congressman that his own brother reportedly ordered him to resign from Congress, his political career seemingly at an embarrassing end.

Many of John Burton's oldest friends and allies thought he was through, but Burton never gave up. He entered a lengthy rehabilitation program, kicked coke and booze, and eventually won back his old Assembly seat in 1988. He was subsequently elected in 1996 to the state senate seat long held by **Milton Marks**.

Burton's recent election to the powerful position of senate president pro tem is not a surprise to those who know him best. Even his political adversaries — and he has many — admit that the senator is loyal, a fighter, someone who knows the game better than most, and has a passion for San Francisco, the city he represents in Sacramento.

I've followed John Burton's career closely, but I don't know him well, though we've met and spoken numerous times. I've usually found him to be aloof, although sometimes he's come all the way across the room to say hello. Other times we've met face-to-face, and he can't be bothered to speak. He is definitely not the backslapping politician that his late brother was, but insiders say he is every bit as smart and probably just as productive.

There can be no doubt that

Burton's rise to the state senate's top position bodes well for Northern California in general and San Francisco in particular. Burton, who will formally take over the job next month, immediately becomes the most powerful Democrat in state government, and second in Sacramento influence only to the governor.

The *Bay Area Reporter* couldn't reach Senator Burton for comment, but Assemblywoman **Carole Migden**, a friend of Burton's, told the *B.A.R.* that "in terms of San Francisco, John's promotion is a stellar stroke for the city in terms of resources, as well as the fact that this assures our progressive values will be protected." She added that "Senator Burton has always been an un-

shakable supporter of gay and lesbian issues, even on some issues that might make our straight friends wince. Without equivocation, John is a great friend of our community, and I'm delighted he's won this powerful position."

Burton, 65, a self-made millionaire, is also known as a champion of the elderly, poor, and disabled. Considered a heavyweight fundraiser, Burton can be expected to play a major role in the state Democratic Party's plan to retain control of the state Senate and Assembly this year.

Though often a critic of Republican Governor **Pete Wilson**, Burton told reporters this week that "I look forward to working with Governor Wilson." Wilson, who has known Burton for 30 years, welcomed him as the next senate leader and praised his intellect and work ethic. The governor offered the hope that in his new post, Burton and he would work well together for the good of the state. Despite Burton's record of combative partisanship during his three decades in politics, Sacramento Republicans said he can expect their support based on his reputation for fairness and keeping his word.

Congratulations, Senator Burton, on your promotion — and good luck!

Politics and people

I know former Supervisor **Susan Leal** and others meant well, but did you know that eight out of every ten motorists caught running a light in the city by those high-tech cameras are getting off

scot-free? Many escape the \$270 fine because they don't have a front license plate, so their car can't be traced. In other cases, glare mars the image of the photo so the numbers are unreadable.

In DC, more than one top GOP operative will tell you that House Speaker **Newt Gingrich** is very busy testing the presidential waters for 2000.

Everyone's favorite star, **Elizabeth Taylor**, will receive the coveted Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award during the annual SAG awards to be televised March 8. Taylor, 65, will be honored for both her acting and her AIDS activism.

The late Representative **Sonny Bono's** widow, **Mary Bono**, is expected to enter the April 7 special election to fill her husband's seat. Mrs. Bono is said by gay and lesbian activists in the Palm Springs area to be a "somewhat more moderate Republican" than her late husband. She's also the early favorite to win the House post.

Incidentally, of all the weirdness at Bono's funeral — and there was a lot — none surpassed **Dan Quayle's** mangling of the English language in front of news cameras. The former Veep apparently meant to call Bono "indefatigable," but wound up saying "indefaggoable." It's hard to tell which is more frightening: Mr. Potatoe Head, or his followers who seriously believe he is capable of leading the Free World.

Musical chairs: With San Diego Mayor **Susan Golding** out of the GOP U.S. senate contest, Northern California Representative **Frank Riggs** (the guy who called in the authorities to dab pepper spray directly into logging protesters' eyes) has announced he will seek the GOP nod for that contest. The popular **Jackie Speier** will run for state Senator **Quentin Kopp's** seat. Former Assembly GOP Leader **Curt Pringle** has entered the race for state treasurer to succeed U.S. senate candidate **Matt Fong**. Meanwhile, a political unknown, businesswoman **Noel Irwin-Hentschel**, confirmed that she'll seek the GOP nod for lieutenant governor — and the game goes on!

It went practically unnoticed, but Democrat **Gil Cedillo** defeated Republican **Andrew Kim** January 13 in a special Assembly election in the East Los Angeles 46th District.

In Providence, R.I., several teenage students told the state Task Force on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth that teachers are ignoring state policies banning harassment of gay students. One teen said the private school she attends has a list of lesbian students to "protect" other students.

The first 1998 congressional race in the nation kicked off with a primary last week in the state's 22nd District, where Democrat **Lois Capps** lead the pack. Capps looks like a good bet to keep the seat for the Dems in the March 10 runoff against right-winger **Tom Bordonaro**, the Republican.

In Salt Lake City, Mayor **Dee Dee Corradini** says she will not veto the city council's recent repeal of a month-old ordinance prohibiting discrimination against gay city employees.

The Quote of the Week is from the phoenix himself, John Burton: "I'll have to work with Pete [Wilson], and he'll have to work with me. I got along with [former Governor] **Ronald Reagan**. As much as I used to needle him, he never took it seriously." ▼



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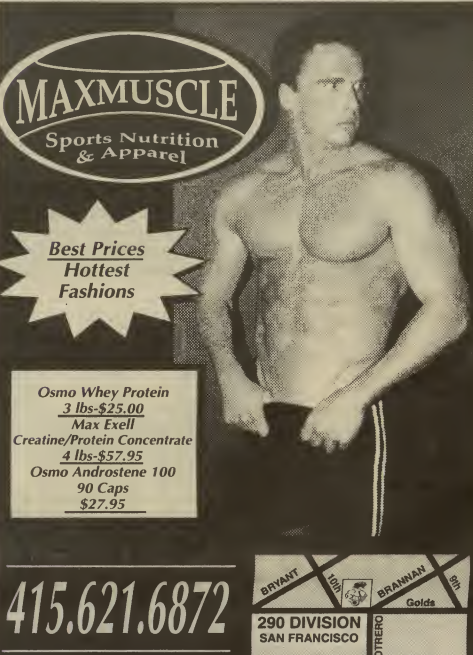
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DC for Dianne



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Hoop dreams



Coach Kim Moeller (center) maps out a play for the LYRIC young women's basketball team, nicknamed "Fruit." The team's next game is Thursday, Jan. 29. A LYRIC softball team for young women is now forming. Call Carla at 703-6150 ext. 12 for more information.

Bargain counter culture

by Beth Elliott

A great Lenny Bruce riff runs through my mind these days amidst all the arguments over what constitutes gay culture and how fiercely we must pledge our allegiance thereto: "I'm just like everyone else — I want to be a nonconformist, too!" When I read the alarms over a supposed danger to The Gay Way of Life from people arguing for a more prudent, less reflex approach to casual sex among gay men, it occurs to me that some people want to make being a nonconformist mandatory.

There's an obvious question here: what the hell does this issue have to do with moi, a lesbian? That's actually a very pertinent or impertinent — question: in today's brave, new pan-queer world, we're all — all meaning anyone vaguely gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or unsure — supposed to consider ourselves as having one culture, a culture unmistakably distinct from the heterosexual and comfortably gendered mainstream. We're not only supposed to consider ourselves innately different from "them," we're supposed to get our sense of who we are from that difference. Each of us is supposed to identify with anything any one of "us" does to be different, and consider their actions a promotion of our values.

At least that's what Victoria Brownworth pretty much said in this paper recently, as she complained about "neoconservative" gay commentators daring to write about where and how (and how happily) lesbians and gay men might actually fit into the mainstream instead of holding out for a counterculture status and identity. Her essay was "You WILL be a nonconformist, or else" writ large, eh?

Typifying the opposite approach — the "I'm expressing my individuality by being like the mainstream" approach? — was David Dalton of the *Examiner*. In a major op-ed piece, he took Sex Panic to task for promoting "the idea that higher quality sex [i.e., unsafe anal sex] is worth dying for, and that life after 40 is so worthless that one might as well have better sex and die young."

I don't think someone asking

whether Sex Panic has overstepped the boundaries of the right to individual opinion (much less sanity) is selling out his community. I think Dalton's asking a damned good question, especially in the context of infection rates among gay men in this city failing to decline over the past three years. There's another question those involved might want to think about in depth before it gets asked outside the community: you insist you must be able to have (promiscuous) sex without protection or your lives as gay men are meaningless, then you want the taxpayers to subsidize your "meaning" with ten grand worth of HIV medicines annually? Ya know, I think selling that one's going to be a toughie, Pilgrim.

More to the point, here are the questions I keep asking myself: just how is all this "crisis" over whether gay men can have all the carefree sex they want of any relevance to me as a lesbian? What in the world does worrying about and debating this have to do with my "culture?" What makes my dating and deciding whether to be sexually intimate in the context of actual or potential relationships a kind of disloyalty, or an attempt to prove mainstream credentials? And whom do I have to please when I date — myself or my "community" and its politics?

During the recent holiday season, from Thanksgiving through New Year's, I socialized in "mixed" groups: either mostly lesbian gatherings with the hostesses' straight friends invited along, or gatherings of straight people and a few lesbians, where people were genuinely interested if there was a special woman I was seeing. I had fun. Lots of fun. I wanted to get away from any community (and its maintenance) and just be with good people. Even those wonderful gatherings of leather people had been organized along the simple principle of, who are the folks worth sharing the holidays with?

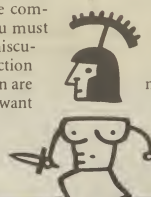
And yet, as refreshing as I found being able to put "community" out of my mind and hang out as an individual valued as

such, as much as I found a much lower "dip" quotient where people came together assuming good, fun, intelligent people would be culturally compatible regardless of sexuality, I experienced a wonderful affirmation of myself as a lesbian and the importance of my being a woman-loving woman to my sense of self. One way that came to me was through my realization that this so-called crisis around sex was a load of crap that had nothing to do with my sex life, culture, or sense of personal meaning as a lesbian.

Something else that outlined my core lesbian sensibility for me, and how distinct from generic "queer" that sensibility is, was reading Pat Califia's new book on transgender politics. Specifically, it was reading the summation of Kate Bornstein's "post-gender" philosophy, revisiting the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival/Camp Trans stare-down, and remembering the survey showing an overwhelming majority of festival-goers were open to having transsexual women among them at the festival as long as they'd had surgery.

Pat was quoting the transgender politicians as saying MTFs should consider foregoing surgery and finding lovers who don't mind their sexual partner having a penis — and the lesbians as saying we don't care if you've had that pussy all your life or not, as long as we know your femaleness means as much to you as ours does to us. I'm reading all this, and I'm thinking, the position of the non-transphobic festival-going women is just plain common sense. It's just like my going to soak at Osento knowing everyone there will be a woman with female genitals, and that that's part of the base comfort level. And I realized the point of view so obvious to me came from lesbian assumptions, desires and expectations.

It was good to know that beneath all the cynicism and ennui I too often feel about the lesbian community, or the larger alphabet soup community, there beats a lesbian heart no one can coerce. More on this next week. ▼



Sapphistication

HISTORY LESSON

25 years ago this week:

Texas lesbian creates Roe gain for women

by David Bianco

This week in gay history: Norma McCorvey, a lesbian from Texas, makes constitutional history in *Roe v. Wade* January 22, 1973.

When the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a decision establishing a woman's constitutional right to terminate a pregnancy in *Roe v. Wade* on January 22, 1973, only a few people knew the true identity of "Jane Roe," the plaintiff in this historic and controversial case. Roe was, in fact, Norma McCorvey, a lesbian from Dallas.

McCorvey was born Norma Leah Nelson in 1947 to a working-class family. Ironically, her mother had wanted to abort her, which was illegal, but consulted the local back-room abortionist too late. Norma's father deserted the family when she was a child, and the girl suffered physical abuse from her mother. Angry and unhappy, Norma ran away with a girlfriend when she was only 10, using money she stole from the gas station where she helped pump gas.

At a motel in Oklahoma City, Norma and her friend had their first lesbian sexual experience. When they were picked up by police several days later, Norma's friend said Norma had forcibly sodomized her. Norma was sent to a girls' reform school for that offense and for robbing the gas station. The reform school, McCorvey later wrote in her memoirs, was more of a home than she had had with her own family.

After her release at 15, Norma began working as a carhop at a drive-in restaurant. There she met Woody McCorvey, a smooth talker whom she married after a brief courtship. Their marriage proved almost as brief. When McCorvey

told her husband she was pregnant, he beat her up, and she left him to return home.

Though it may seem like an unlikely time to come out as a lesbian, it was during her pregnancy that the 16-year-old McCorvey discovered a local lesbian bar and began to frequent it. She found a home within the lesbian and gay subculture of Dallas. Though she had several relationships with women, she also continued to have occasional sex with men. After the birth of her first daughter, she came out to her mother and paid a price for her honesty — her mother was able to take her infant daughter away from her.

When McCorvey became pregnant again after a week-long affair, she carried the baby to term, but gave it up for adoption. But it was Norma's third pregnancy, from another casual fling, that made history. That time, she sought out an abortion, but was unable to find a doctor to perform one. She tried unsuccessfully to abort with a homemade potion that made her sick. Finally, an attorney she consulted about adoption referred her to two young lawyers who would change her life — Sarah Weddington and Linda Coffee.

Weddington and Coffee were feminists who wanted to build a case challenging Texas's anti-abortion laws, with an eye to setting a precedent that might overturn all existing abortion laws. Weddington had a personal stake in such a case — she had had an unwanted pregnancy when she was in law school and had an abortion in Mexico. In order to make their case, Weddington and Coffee needed a pregnant woman who wanted an abortion. Enter Norma McCorvey.

In February 1970, McCorvey was two-and-a-half months pregnant and desperate. She saw the two attorneys as her last hope for

an abortion. When McCorvey met with them, she was honest about her sexual orientation and saw the confusion on the women's faces. Afraid they might not take on her case, McCorvey lied and told them she had been raped. Because she was concerned that her lie would be discovered later on, McCorvey opted to use the pseudonym "Jane Roe" for the trial.

McCorvey didn't understand the legal system, and Weddington and Coffee failed to tell their client that the suit would take too long to benefit her. By the time the case was tried and won, McCorvey was six months pregnant. She put her third and last child up for adoption. After a period of despondency in which she tried to commit suicide, McCorvey met her life partner, Connie Gonzalez, and got a fresh start.

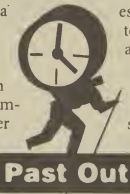
Roe v. Wade was appealed by the state of Texas and went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. By a vote of 7-2 in early 1973, the justices held that a woman's right to an abortion was part of her constitutional right to privacy. It wasn't until 1987 that McCorvey revealed herself as Jane Roe and admitted her lie about being raped. A made-for-TV movie starring Holly Hunter was made about her in 1989, but with her lesbian identity left out.

After several years in the public eye, speaking out for abortion rights and writing a pro-choice memoir, McCorvey became a born-again Christian in 1995 and abruptly recanted her position on abortion. Since that time, she has been an outspoken advocate for Operation Rescue, the militant anti-abortion group. ▼

David Bianco, M.A. is the author of *Modern Jewish History for Everyone*. He can be reached care of the *Bay Area Reporter* or at AriBianco@aol.com. For more Past Out, visit www.gay.net.

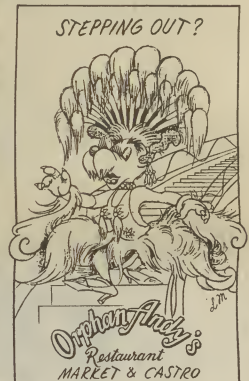


Attorney Sarah Weddington (center) greets Sen. Barbara Boxer at a Jan. 20 Bay Area event celebrating the silver anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*.



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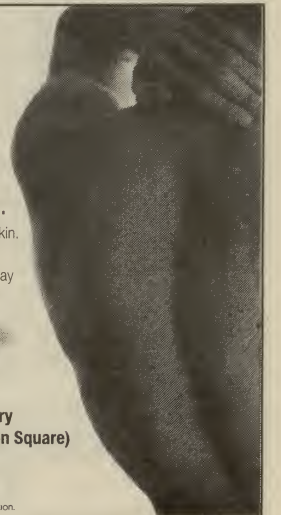
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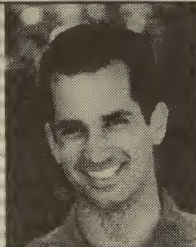


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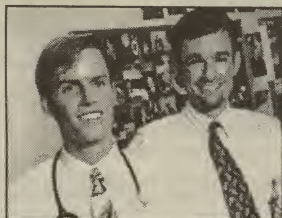


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Us talks to some of us

by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media resource
center manager

The February edition of *Us* magazine features interviews with the outspoken and increasingly articulate Anne Heche and the demure Nathan Lane. In the interview with Heche, she speaks of honesty, openness, and the reverse-inspiration of her heavily closeted minister father, who died in 1983 from AIDS complications.

"If it weren't for my father, I don't think I would be so open. So that's a huge blessing," she says. "I think it's somehow beautiful that because he died, because he was so unwilling to tell the truth, I got at a very young age [to] tell the truth, be who you are, there's nothing more important."

On being the guinea pig for an openly lesbian movie star playing romantic leads, she says, "Being an actor, the fun is changing form, being able to portray the person you've never been. ... When someone says they're nervous [about whether audiences will accept a gay actress], I want to say, are you kidding? Don't I change form for you?"

Nathan Lane also has his own take on honesty around sexual orientation, noting that when Jason Alexander said he was "the first straight man to have played Buzz [in *Love! Valour! Compassion!*]," he said, "I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for clearing up that unsolved mystery that is my sexuality. I also said, 'Look, I'm 40, I'm single and I work in the musical theater — you do the math. What do you need, flashcards?'"

Later, in explaining why he is not more explicit about his sexual orientation, he says, "The trouble with [being explicit] to me is that it [implies] that if you're gay, you were just letting your hair down and it wasn't really a performance [to play a gay role]."

Please thank *Us* for openly exploring the role of sexual orientation and the way audiences perceive it in the lives of these two talented performers. Also, thank Anne Heche for her openness and honesty about being lesbian in Hollywood.

Contact: Barbara O'Dair, Editor, *Us* Magazine; 1290 Avenue of the Americas, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10104-0295, fax: 212.767.8204, e-mail: letters@usmagazine.com; Anne Heche, c/o Huvane Baum Hall, 8383 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 444, Beverly Hills, CA 90211, fax: 213.782.9195

ABC buries gay Nothing Sacred episode

The critically acclaimed ABC program *Nothing Sacred* has found itself once again at the center of controversy, but this time because of an unaired episode about a gay priest with AIDS. A recent *Los Angeles Times* story ("Is a Priest with AIDS 'Too Sacred?'" by Howard Rosenberg, January 9, 1998) charges ABC with suppressing the episode, which chronicles the story of Father Jesse and his test of faith, departure from the church, and eventual return to his congregation. In the end, Jesse finds the courage to come out to his poker buddies, a

group of six priests (including the local monsignor) who begin each card game with the toast "to the last six celibate heterosexual priests in the Catholic Church."

Father Ray, long an outspoken supporter of addressing gay, lesbian, and AIDS issues in his own church, also faces the internalized homophobia of Jesse and the pain faced by gay and lesbian Catholics. On Ray's desk sits an ordination class picture with X's through the faces of classmates lost to the church because of the conflict between their sexual orientation and church doctrine, or their death from AIDS.

GLAAD representatives had an opportunity to see the unaired episode, is shocked that ABC would refuse to air it, and questions the network's motivations. "This episode, like the program in general, is compelling and honest and addresses real issues in the Catholic Church today," said GLAAD Executive Director Joan Garry. "ABC should allow its viewers to make their own decisions about the many challenging issues which this program presents. By burying this vital and powerful episode, ABC is sacrificing quality programming to the altar of radical religious political correctness."

Urge ABC to air this program and not cave in to the fear of a vocal radical religious minority who prefers mandating their own view of reality to allowing viewers the opportunity to choose for themselves whether or not to view this kind of dramatic and honest portrayal of such an explosive issue.

Contact: Jamie Tarses, Entertainment President, ABC, 2040 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, CA 90037, fax: 310.557.7679, e-mail: abcaudr@abc.com, or call ABC at 310.557.7777, and ask to be connected to their audience response line

A Premiere proposal for Hollywood

The February issue of *Premiere* features "The Wrong List," a compelling call to the entertainment industry to stop just honoring those gay people in Hollywood who have died of AIDS, and start celebrating the living.

Contributing writer Jesse Green starts, "Every November, here at *Premiere*, several of us get busy with our own ghastly ritual: a look through the past year's obituaries, in search of the dismal four-letter word [AIDS]." He says, "This year, the list seemed small enough to beg a different kind of response. To be sure, people continue to stubbornly die. And these gay men whose lives have been reduced to a few paragraphs played such a central role in the creation of mainstream American culture." Now, though, "what emerges as Hollywood's pink elephant is not how well the studios treat the dying in their midst, but how well they treated the truth of the living."

He discusses how earnest AIDS films are "numbingly didactic" like the early films that struggled to combat anti-Semitism and racism. "The whole project of AIDS movies was misbegotten. AIDS wasn't the subject that needed exposure in films and television; gayness was," he says. "As such, the salient comparisons weren't to antiracist tracts like

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, but to movies that came later and told multiple truths about black people. What the beleaguered ranks of Hollywood activists forgot was that gayness isn't, mustn't be, AIDS. ... It may be naive to ask how it happens that *Ellen*, a sitcom aired on a network owned by a film studio, manages to broadcast, week after week, groundbreaking stories about gay life that are more real — and more entertaining — than anything a movie has ever said on the subject."

In summary, he says, "After six years of studying how dead gay people spent their lives diverting, alarming, creating America, I think we've been publishing the wrong damn list. We should publish instead a list of everyone who's left — all those gay men and women who won't be dying soon — and let America deal with that."

Thank *Premiere* for this provocative call for Hollywood to openly celebrate the lives of lesbians and gay men in all their complexity.

Contact: James B. Meigs, Editor-in-Chief, *Premiere*, 1633 Broadway, 41st Floor, New York, NY 10019-6708, fax: 212.767.5450, e-mail: edit@premieremag.com

Harvard teaches gay past and present

The January/February 1998 edition of *Harvard Magazine*, the periodical for the school's graduates, featured an excellent cover story entitled, "Gay Like Me: In & Out of the Closet at Harvard, 1653-1998." Written by alumnus Andrew Tobias, it is a personal reflection on his own transition from living in the closet, and in fear, to his new openness about his sexual orientation.

In addition, the article looks at other people associated with the university over the years, dating back to 1653, when Michael Wigglesworth struggled with his strong desires for other men and wrote about it in his diary. Tobias discusses the struggles some had in seeking counseling in the late 1960s and early 1970s and finding little psychological support.

Finally, the list of lesbian and gay Harvard alumni who have gone on to prominence in the struggle for civil rights and dignity for all gay people is impressive, including: U.S. Representative Barney Frank (D-Mass), Craig Davidson and Mike Valentini (who helped found GLAAD), California Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Sheila Kuehl, Kevin Jennings (founder of GLSEN), Martin Duberman, Keith Boykin (head of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum), and Alan Gilmour (the Ford Motor Co. vice president who came out recently).

Please thank *Harvard Magazine* for recognizing the realities and triumphs of its lesbian and gay students and alumni. Also, write the editor of your own alma mater's alumni publication and encourage them to include more lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender content.

Contact: Editor-in-Chief, *Harvard Magazine*, 7 Ware Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, fax: 617.495.0324. ▼

Contact GLAAD by e-mail at glaad@glaad.org or by phone at (415) 861-2244. Report defamation in the media by calling GLAAD's Toll-Free AlertLine! 1-800-GAY-MEDIA.

MCC/SF ponders growth

Annual meeting considers adding pastor

by Vicky Kolakowski

Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco will hold its annual congregational meeting this Sunday, January 25 at 1 p.m. In addition to the usual business of electing members of the board of directors and delegates to congregational meetings, the church will make several decisions that will affect its staff, congregants, denomination, and the community.

About 450 people are now eligible to vote at the meeting, which is itself a factor in the meeting's importance. "MCC/SF is the largest it has ever been in membership, attendance, and offerings, and it feels like the growth is continuing," Reverend Jim Mitulski told the *Bay Area Reporter*. Mitulski has been senior pastor of the church for 12 years.

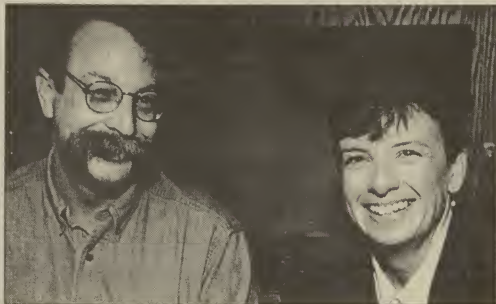
That growth has placed a strain on the church's facilities, which Mitulski believes are used at maximum capacity. As a result, the meeting will include discussions about options for both short-term and long-term responses to the space crunch, including building renovations and the eventual possibility of moving to a larger building if short-term retrofits are not enough.

Given the limited space available in the Castro, would the church consider moving to another neighborhood in San Francisco? "We are very committed to ministry in this neighborhood," Mitulski told the *B.A.R.*, "although our ministry extends throughout the Bay Area, from Santa Rosa to San Jose. We have a strong cultural identification with the Castro."

Before making long-term decisions, the church will be presented with the findings of focus group studies conducted this year.

Penny and dollar issues

The church will be making two other major decisions. The first is



Proposed pastor: MCC's Rev. Penny Nixon with Rev. Jim Mitulski.

a proposal originally offered by Mitulski to call the Reverend Penny Nixon to the position of pastor of the church. Nixon has served as associate pastor of the church for the past two years. The proposal, which requires the support of 80% of those voting, would grant her tenure and make her removable only by vote of the congregation.

Mitulski feels that his proposal to call Nixon as pastor is more of a statement of commitment to a successful professional partnership than it is a promotion. "This is more of a recognition of how we already work together," Mitulski said. "We don't use titles anyway."

The move also signals a desire to demonstrate to the community what Mitulski calls "co-gendered leadership" at the church. "There are not a lot of models of this type of leadership of gay men and lesbians," Nixon told the *B.A.R.*. "This is good news to the community." The proposal would also provide more stability to the church, because either would remain as pastor if the other left. As a result, the decision could have a lasting impact on the church.

The other major decision to be made at the meeting is the passing of the congregation's annual budget, which for the first time includes denominational assessments below the mandated 15%.

Refusal to pay the required assessments could lead to a confrontation with the denomination, which may choose to refuse to seat the church's delegates at business meetings.

Mitulski's presentation of the budget proposal to other local church leaders on a regional MCC e-mail list resulted in a number of charges that the church was questioning the value of affiliation with the denomination, which Mitulski denies.

"We are trying to determine what we will send to an international organization we esteem," Mitulski explained. "What we get from that organization has never been part of the discussion. We only look at what others get from our giving."

"We are spending more and more money directly in the community," he said, citing the recent growth in direct ministry to the poor—such as feeding the homeless in the Castro and support of ministries in the Tenderloin—as requiring more of the church's budget. "We believe that 10 percent is a reasonable sum," Mitulski said. The church will also consider proposing a denominational by-law amendment to lower the assessments.

While only members of the church are eligible to vote, everyone is welcome to attend the meeting. Mitulski views this openness as an example to other community organizations.

"We are one of the largest gay and lesbian constituency organizations in San Francisco," Mitulski said. "We believe that it's important for us to demonstrate to the community the importance of open meetings—our congregational meetings are always open, as well as our board of directors meetings." ▼

The annual congregational meeting will be held at MCC of San Francisco, located at 150 Eureka Street. The church's number is (415) 863-4434.



Holy iceberg: Philip Johnson's plan for the Dallas cathedral.

MCC raises \$6.2M for Johnson-designed cathedral

United Press International

Members have raised \$6.2 million to build a new cathedral in Dallas for what they call the largest lesbian and gay congregation in the world.

Members of the Cathedral of Hope told a news conference Sunday, January 18 that they are launching a national campaign to raise another \$19 million to complete financing for the church being designed by famed architect Philip Johnson.

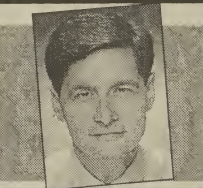
Johnson has designed a sanc-

tuary that resembles a soaring iceberg 11 stories tall and two football fields long. Construction of the first phase, an office building, is expected to begin in May, with completion by January 2001.

The Rev. Michael Piazza, the senior pastor, said the shape will remind viewers of ships, icebergs, mountains and crystals. He said, "It will evoke emotions and thoughts of protection, joy, humility and love."

The Cathedral of Hope congregation numbers 3,000, and the current church holds only about 800 people. ▼

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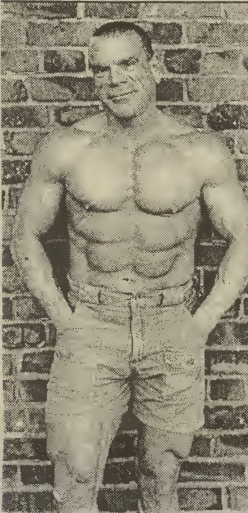
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ENDOSCOPIC & LASER TREATMENTS AVAILABLE

AEF to cut service to outlying counties

But raise annual grant limit

by Cynthia Laird

Clients of the AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF) who live in San Francisco, Alameda, San Mateo, and Marin counties will continue to receive grants annually, but residents of Sonoma, Napa, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, Solano, and Santa Cruz counties will be discontinued on a conditional basis, effective February 1. AEF's board of directors announced the new policy January 15 and said it was a direct result of feedback from last month's meeting, when the organization went to the community for help.

In another policy change, beginning March 1, people who are eligible for emergency financial assistance will see the maximum annual grant increase from \$400 to \$450.

AEF's new president, Loren Berthelsen, and Ken Turner, vice president, said that services to people in the outlying counties were being stopped because data shows those counties provide virtually no income to AEF. The AIDS service organization (ASO), which began in San Francisco's leather community with \$6,500 and 19 clients in 1982, last year provided \$1.5 million in direct emergency financial assistance to about 4,000 people in 10 Bay Area counties. AEF has no paid executive director, and just 9 percent of its annual budget goes to administrative costs; 91 percent of the budget goes to direct client services.

"At the public forum [December 8], there was a strong feeling," Turner told the B.A.R. "People wanted to keep the money in the counties where the money was coming from."



AEF's new president, Loren Berthelsen, is happy about the grant increase.

AEF will provide financial assistance in counties where annual projected revenue from that county equals or exceeds 65 percent of the total amount granted to benefit residents of that county in the previous year. AEF pledges to work in tandem with county officials, ASOs, and individuals in all the affected counties to locate and increase sources of local county revenue. The new policy will be continually reviewed, based upon available county revenue.

"We have a moral commitment to provide emergency financial assistance to as many clients as possible, but we must maintain the fiscal solvency of the agency in order to continue to serve any clients at all," said Turner.

The board feels especially bad about the decision to discontinue

services to people living in Sonoma County, but Turner said the action has already resulted in talks with officials there to see about raising private funds or perhaps getting some assistance from local government. About \$120,000 was granted to people in that county last year.

With the advance of new medical treatments that have resulted in many people living longer, AEF has seen a 16 percent increase in client load, but revenues have not kept pace. That led to a painful decision in March 1997, when the board reluctantly voted to reduce the amount of money it pays for rent, utilities, or other emergencies, from \$500 to \$400 per person per year. Turner and Berthelsen are particularly pleased the dollar amount will increase slightly this

page 21 ►

Pelosi to hold AIDS meeting

Less Fed money adds to housing crunch

by Cynthia Laird

Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) will be in town next Saturday, January 31, to convene a community forum on HIV/AIDS. The congresswoman will address the federal government's commitment to HIV/AIDS research and prevention efforts as well as local implications of federal programs and policies. The town hall meeting is free and open to the public.

Pelosi's office stated that in the current fiscal year, federal AIDS funding totals \$3.4 billion. That figure includes \$1.6 billion for AIDS research; \$1.15 billion for the Ryan White CARE program; \$634 million for HIV prevention; and \$204 million for AIDS housing.

Locally, federal AIDS funding to San Francisco is estimated at \$128.3 million for the current fiscal year. The funds support research, housing, patient care, prevention, and drug assistance programs. Earlier this month, the Department of Public Health's AIDS Office announced that San Francisco will be receiving \$36.4 mil-

lion in CARE Act money; that represents a slight reduction of about 2.2 percent from last year.

The city did not do as well regarding this year's federal Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA) program; Mark Dunlop, of the city's Redevelopment Commission, told the B.A.R. that funding was cut by approximately 10 percent. It is not known how the HOPWA cut will affect the redevelopment agency's plan to increase rental subsidies.

Given the unique problems around housing that face people living with HIV/AIDS in San Francisco, the impact of this year's HOPWA cuts and, to a lesser extent, the slight reduction in CARE money should be a topic addressed at the meeting. The city's extremely low vacancy rate and the resulting high rents contribute to the AIDS housing crisis here.

Thousands of people continue to languish on the city's Housing Wait List (HWL), formerly called the Centralized Housing Information and Placement System (CHIPS), as they wait for the appropriate type of housing aid, whether it be a supportive pro-

gram or rental subsidies. Derek Gordon, of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF), which administers the HWL, said there are currently 3,153 people on the list who are actively looking or waiting for housing; that's a slight decrease from April 1997, when the figure was 3,200.

Some of the other areas Pelosi hopes to discuss at the San Francisco meeting include new challenges related to access to combination drug therapies, and the controversy over some prevention initiatives, most notably needle exchange. Pelosi, who is facing reelection this year, is also expected to talk about the recognition of the urgency for research for a cure and a vaccine for the virus. ▼

The town hall meeting starts at 10 a.m. at Everett Middle School, located at 450 Church Street between 16th and 17th streets. The site is handicapped accessible at the schoolyard entrance. Public transportation routes include the 22 Fillmore Muni line or the J-Church streetcar.

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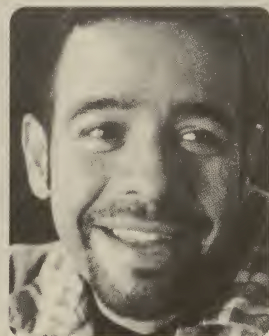
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Meet QL PAC

Queer Latinos get involved in city politics

by Cynthia Laird

For the past year, a group of queer Latinos has been informally meeting, figuring out common goals and getting the necessary paperwork completed to become a registered political action committee (PAC). Now they're ready to recruit more members, get the word out about their organization, and get involved in San Francisco's political process.

Meet the Queer Latino PAC (QL PAC).

Actually, interested members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community can literally meet QL PAC; members will celebrate the group's first anniversary this Friday, January 23 with a mixer at Leticia's, located at 2247

Market Street in the Castro. The QL PAC board will be introduced, and information will be available for potential members.

"We wanted to be all-inclusive and create an atmosphere where it was safe to disagree and define our agenda, and educate ourselves, the queer Latino community, and the community at large," Christine Olague, co-chair, told the B.A.R.

Her counterpart on the board, co-chair Juan Tam, added, "A lot of people hear about the QL PAC, a lot of queer Latinos, and they feel this is great, that we should have had it a long time ago."

As an official PAC, the QL PAC is registered with the state Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC). A new brochure describes its mission: "To increase the queer Latino/a political base

through leadership development, combating homophobia, education on the political process, skills training, and supporting queer Latino/a candidates."

The QLP is nonpartisan, and while voting members must be queer Latino/a, supporters do not necessarily have to be. "We followed the LGADDA and GAPA models," Olague said, referring to the local queer African-American and Asian political groups.

Over the past 12 months, the group has consisted of about 30 members and supporters; a total of 60 people are on their mailing list, something the group has been circulating at various events as they work to get the word out. The QL PAC came together as people started discussing issues of mutual concern in the queer Latino/a community. "The ability to



QLP's Juan Tam, Christina Olague, and Chriss Romero.

build coalitions within people of color organizations had long been recognized by other political organizations; however, progressive groups or individuals have been unwilling to share real access or power," states their brochure. "We were invited to different

clubs in an advisory capacity only," said member Chriss Romero. "There was not overt resistance, but we felt we could lead these discussions ourselves."

The QL PAC holds monthly meetings that are open to interested community members. Additionally, as the election year gets into full swing - there are five supervisors' seats on the ballot in November - the group expects to host community forums on various issues affecting both the queer and Latino/a communities. One of their continuing jobs will be educating the public. "A challenge for us, since we're out there as queer Latinos, will be to fight homophobia in our own community and in general," said Tam. ▽

Friday's QL PAC mixer is from 6 to 8 p.m., with refreshments and a no-host bar. Donations are gladly accepted; for more information, call (415) 648-3702. The QL PAC's next meeting is Thursday, February 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Women's Building, 3543 18th Street.

Supe stock

◀ page 1

districts have not yet been determined.

In addition to the new board member facing voters in November, Supervisors Ammiano, Mabel Teng, Amos Brown, and Gavin Newsom will be up for re-election, with the top vote-getter becoming board president. Brown and Newsom were appointed by the mayor. The mayor's other appointments, Supervisors Michael Yaki and Katz, won election in November 1996.

The appointee also needs to be a person who can raise money to run a citywide campaign. Openly gay political consultant Robert Barnes said the longer Brown takes naming a replacement for Leal, the harder it will be for that person both to raise money and establish a legislative record. Right now, candidates for supervisor can raise a maximum of \$250,000 in \$500 increments.

"To be competitive in a supervisor's race, you need to be able to raise at the low end between \$150,000 to \$200,000," Barnes told the B.A.R. Most of the money goes to fund direct mail pieces that are very expensive, as well as signs and billboards. It is direct mail, however, with its constantly increasing printing and postage costs, that a candidate ends up spending huge amounts of money on.

Finally, the issue of support is also on Brown's mind. "It should be someone who's cooperative with the mayor's office," he said. ▽

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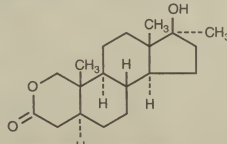
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WARNINGS

PELIOUSIS HEPATIS, A CONDITION IN WHICH LIVER AND SOMETIMES SPLENIC TISSUE IS REPLACED WITH BLOOD-FILLED CYSTS, HAS BEEN REPORTED IN PATIENTS RECEIVING ANDROGENIC ANABOLIC STEROID THERAPY. THESE CYSTS ARE SOMETIMES PRESENT WITH MINIMAL HEPATIC DYSFUNCTION, BUT AT OTHER TIMES THEY HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH LIVER FAILURE. THEY ARE OFTEN NOT RECOGNIZED UNTIL LIFE-THREATENING LIVER FAILURE OR INTRA-ABDOMINAL HEMORRHAGE DEVELOPS. WITHDRAWAL OF DRUG USUALLY RESULTS IN COMPLETE DISAPPEARANCE OF LESIONS.

LIVER CELL TUMORS ARE ALSO REPORTED. MOST OFTEN THESE TUMORS ARE BENIGN AND ANDROGEN-DEPENDENT, BUT FATAL MALIGNANT TUMORS HAVE BEEN REPORTED. WITHDRAWAL OF DRUG OFTEN RESULTS IN REGRESSION OR CESSATION OF PROGRESSION OF THE TUMOR. HOWEVER, HEPATIC TUMORS ASSOCIATED WITH ANDROGENS OR ANABOLIC STEROIDS ARE MUCH MORE VASCULAR THAN OTHER HEPATIC TUMORS AND MAY BE SILENT UNTIL LIFE-THREATENING INTRA-ABDOMINAL HEMORRHAGE DEVELOPS. BLOOD LIPID CHANGES THAT ARE KNOWN TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED RISK OF ATHEROSCLEROSIS ARE SEEN IN PATIENTS TREATED WITH ANDROGENS OR ANABOLIC STEROIDS. THESE CHANGES INCLUDE DECREASED HIGH-DENSITY LIPOPROTEINS AND SOMETIMES INCREASED LOW-DENSITY LIPOPROTEINS. THE CHANGES MAY BE VERY MARKED AND COULD HAVE A SERIOUS IMPACT ON THE RISK OF ATHEROSCLEROSIS AND CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE.

Cholestatic hepatitis and jaundice may occur with 17-alpha-alkylated androgens at a relatively low dose. If cholestatic hepatitis with jaundice appears or if liver function tests become abnormal, oxandrolone should be discontinued and the etiology should be determined. Drug-induced jaundice is reversible when the medication is discontinued.

In patients with breast cancer, anabolic steroid therapy may cause hypercalcaemia by stimulating osteolysis. Oxandrolone therapy should be discontinued if hypercalcaemia occurs. Edema with or without congestive heart failure may be a serious complication in patients with preexisting cardiac, renal, or hepatic disease. Concomitant administration of adrenal cortical steroid or ACTH may increase the edema.

In children, androgen therapy may accelerate bone maturation without producing compensatory gain in linear growth. This adverse effect results in compromised adult height. The younger the child, the greater the risk of compromising final mature height. The effect on bone maturation should be monitored by assessing bone age of the left wrist and hand every 6 months (See PRECAUTIONS: Laboratory tests).

Geriatric patients treated with androgenic anabolic steroids may be at an increased risk for the development of prostatic hypertrophy and prostatic carcinoma.

ANABOLIC STEROIDS HAVE NOT BEEN SHOWN TO ENHANCE ATHLETIC ABILITY.

PRECAUTIONS

General:

Women should be observed for signs of virilization (deepening of the voice, hirsutism, acne, clitoromegaly). Discontinuation of drug therapy at the time of evidence of mild virilism is necessary to prevent irreversible virilization. Some virilizing changes in women are irreversible even after prompt discontinuance of therapy and are not prevented by concomitant use of estrogens. Menstrual irregularities may also occur.

Anabolic steroids may cause suppression of clotting factors II, V, VII, and X, and an increase in prothrombin time.

Information for patients:

The physician should instruct patients to report any of the following side effects of androgens:

- Males:** Too frequent or persistent erections of the penis, appearance or aggravation of acne.
- Females:** Hoarseness, acne, changes in menstrual periods, or more facial hair.
- All Patients:** Nausea, vomiting, changes in skin color, or ankle swelling.

Laboratory tests:

Women with disseminated breast carcinoma should have frequent determination of urine and serum calcium levels during the course of therapy (See WARNINGS).

Because of the hepatotoxicity associated with the use of 17-alpha-alkylated androgens, liver function tests should be obtained periodically.

Periodic (every 6 months) x-ray examinations of bone age should be made during treatment of children to determine the rate of bone maturation and the effects of androgen therapy on the epiphyseal centers.

Serum lipids and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol determination should be done periodically as androgenic anabolic steroids have been reported to increase low-density lipoproteins. Serum cholesterol levels may increase during therapy. Therefore, caution is required when administering these agents to patients with a history of myocardial infarction or coronary artery disease.

Serial determinations of serum cholesterol should be made and therapy adjusted accordingly.

Hemoglobin and hematocrit should be checked periodically for polycythemia in patients who are receiving high doses of anabolic steroids.

Drug interactions

Anticoagulants:

Anabolic steroids may increase sensitivity to oral anticoagulants. Dosage of the anticoagulant may have to be decreased in order to maintain desired prothrombin time. Patients receiving oral anticoagulant therapy require close monitoring, especially when anabolic steroids are started or stopped.

Oral hypoglycemic agents:

Anabolic steroids may inhibit the metabolism of oral hypoglycemic agents.

Adrenal steroids or ACTH:

In patients with edema, concomitant administration with adrenal cortical steroids or ACTH may increase the edema.

Drug/Laboratory test interactions:

Anabolic steroids may decrease levels of thyroxine-binding globulin, resulting in decreased total T₄ serum levels and increased resin uptake of T₄ and T₃. Free thyroid hormone levels remain unchanged. In addition, a decrease in PBI and radioactive iodine uptake may occur.

Carcinogenesis, mutagenesis, impairment of fertility

Animal data:

Oxandrolone has not been tested in laboratory animals for carcinogenic or mutagenic effects. In 2-year chronic oral rat studies, a dose-related reduction of spermatogenesis and decreased organ weights (testes, prostate, seminal vesicles, ovaries, uterus, adrenals, and pituitary) were shown.

Human data:

Liver cell tumors have been reported in patients receiving long-term therapy with androgenic anabolic steroids in high doses (See WARNINGS). Withdrawal of the drugs did not lead to regression of the tumors in all cases.

Genitric patients treated with androgenic anabolic steroids may be at an increased risk for the development of prostatic hypertrophy and prostatic carcinoma.

Pregnancy:

Teratogenic effects — Pregnancy Category X (See CONTRAINDICATIONS).

Nursing mothers:

It is not known whether anabolic steroids are excreted in human milk. Because of the potential of serious adverse reactions in nursing infants from oxandrolone, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

Pediatric use:

Anabolic agents may accelerate epiphyseal maturation more rapidly than linear growth in children and the effect may continue for 6 months after the drug has been stopped. Therefore, therapy should be monitored by x-ray studies at 6-month intervals in order to avoid the risk of compromising adult height. Androgenic anabolic steroid therapy should be used very cautiously in children and only by specialists who are aware of the effects on bone maturation (See WARNINGS).

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The following adverse reactions have been associated with use of anabolic steroids:

Hepatic: Cholestatic jaundice with, rarely, hepatic necrosis and death. Hepatocellular neoplasms and peliosis hepatitis with long-term therapy (See WARNINGS). Reversible changes in liver function tests also occur including increased bromsulphthalein (BSP) retention, and increases in serum bilirubin, aspartate aminotransferase (AST, SGOT) and alkaline phosphatase.

In males:

Prepubertal: Phallic enlargement and increased frequency or persistence of erections.

Postpubertal: Inhibition of testicular function, testicular atrophy and oligospermia, impotence, chronic priapism, epididymitis, and bladder irritability.

In females:

Clitoral enlargement, menstrual irregularities.

CNS: Habituation, excitation, insomnia, depression, and changes in libido.

Hematologic: Bleeding in patients on concomitant anticoagulant therapy.

Breast: Gynecomastia.

Larynx: Deepening of the voice in females.

Hair: Hirsutism and male pattern baldness in females.

Skin: Acne (especially in females and prepubertal males).

Skeletal: Premature closure of epiphyses in children (See PRECAUTIONS: Pediatric use).

Fluid and electrolytes: Edema, retention of serum electrolytes (sodium chloride, potassium, phosphate, calcium).

Antibiotic/Endocrine: Decreased glucose tolerance (See PRECAUTIONS: Laboratory tests), increased creatinine excretion, increased serum levels of creatinine phosphokinase (CPK).

Masculinization of the fetus: Inhibition of gonadotropin secretion.

OVERDOSAGE

No symptoms or signs associated with overdose have been reported. It is possible that sodium and water retention may occur.

The oral LD₅₀ of oxandrolone in mice and dogs is greater than 5,000 mg/kg. No specific antidote is known, but gastric lavage may be used.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Therapy with anabolic steroids is adjunctive to and not a replacement for conventional therapy. The duration of therapy with Oxandrin (oxandrolone) will depend on the response of the patient and the possible appearance of adverse reactions. Therapy should be intermittent.

Adults: The usual adult dosage of Oxandrin is one 2.5-mg tablet 2 to 4 times daily. However, the response of individuals to anabolic steroids varies, and a daily dosage of as little as 2.5 mg or as much as 20 mg may be required to achieve the desired response. A course of therapy of 2 to 4 weeks is usually adequate. This may be repeated intermittently as indicated.

Children: For children the total daily dosage of Oxandrin is 20.1 mg per kilogram body weight or 20.045 mg per pound of body weight. This may be repeated intermittently as indicated.

HOW SUPPLIED

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COMMUNITY NEWS

CEO, administrators take pay cut

NTFAP downsizes to continue services

by Cynthia Laird

Executive and top administrative staff at the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention (NTFAP) have taken voluntary pay cuts, and other positions have been eliminated, resulting in an annual savings of \$250,000 in salaries, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned. The AIDS organization, which provides HIV/AIDS services and prevention programs in San Francisco as well as technical assistance to other groups nationally, becomes the second Bay Area nonprofit AIDS group to announce administrative salary reductions in less than a year; last

June, Project Open Hand's board of directors voted to freeze salaries of its top six employees.

Mario Solis-Marich, chief executive officer (CEO) at NTFAP, told the *B.A.R.* that the board has struggled with a massive reorganization for nearly a year. The agency, which reported an annual budget of \$3.1 million for their fiscal year ending January 31, has consolidated 11 administrative positions into seven, with several people, including Solis-Marich and chief financial officer (CFO) Jim Nickoff, assuming additional job duties. Solis-Marich said his annual salary with the pay cut is now \$72,000. "That's lower for an executive director than any orga-

nization our size that we surveyed," he said.

Solis-Marich said that he has worked to strengthen NTFAP's programs and deal with financial problems since he was hired in March 1997. "There were hard decisions to make," he said in an interview on Monday, January 19. "Do we cut management or cut programs? We believe we made the right decision. The board decided to try and find a way to use dollars more efficiently, while at the same time, the city gave us less money to work with, and a CDC [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] grant stopped; it was the end of a five-year cycle."



Mario Solis-Marich

Growing pains

The reshuffling has not come without what Solis-Marich described as "growing pains," but it's obvious that the task force's financial situation needed improvement. "We inherited some challenges," he said. The result has been an elimination of a middle layer of management. Each of the task force's three local programs, New Village, Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida, and the Native American AIDS Project (NAAP), continue to have their own program directors.

"We used to have someone [else] the managers reported to, but the change has worked out really well," said Nickoff.

Solis-Marich and Nickoff said the employees who have taken salary cuts all did so voluntarily. "I did not impose it. We had a meeting, and they deserve credit," said Solis-Marich. "People understand this is a changing time, because of

the population we work with."

While reported AIDS cases in San Francisco have declined over the last year, statistics show that particularly for the African-American community, AIDS cases dropped only slightly in the first nine months of 1997 from 1996; the number increased from 1995 to 1996.

Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida is led by Diane Felix; the program that serves the Latino/a community was described by Solis-Marich as being "a stellar program."

The NAAP, in contrast, has had its share of problems since being taken over by the task force several years ago. Those issues were raised last month at a meeting of the city's HIV Prevention Planning Council (HPPC), which received an anonymous letter that alleged financial mismanagement, among other concerns. Solis-Marich disputed much of what was in the undated letter and pro-

vided the *B.A.R.* with agency financial records, including a copy of a confidential internal auditing report issued last September by the Department of Public Health AIDS Office. The report covers findings as of March 21, 1997, just a few weeks after Solis-Marich took over at the NTFAP.

Virtually all of the 15 findings outlined in the report have been addressed by task force administrators, including the implementation of new policies discontinuing salary advances. The AIDS Office found over \$30,000 in outstanding expense advances, 24 percent of which had been outstanding for six months or more. Additionally, 29 percent of the employees were no longer with the agency, making recovery of those advances unlikely.

Moving on

The task force hopes to revitalize its fundraising efforts and has hired a new development director, Michael Viet. He comes to the NTFAP from United Way, and replaces the previous fundraising person. And the task force remains committed to providing local services: in many programs, units of service meet or exceed the levels authorized in DPH contracts.

Solis-Marich said the task force is equally committed to accountability; board meetings are open, and at last month's HPPC meeting he said the agency's financial records and other public information are readily available. He invited planning council members to tour the local programs, and members indicated they wanted to take him up on the offer. ▼

'Blunt Discussions' group starting at New Village

by Cynthia Laird

New Village has announced the formation of "Blunt Discussions," an ongoing series of support groups for African-American lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities. New Village, a program of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention (NTFAP), will launch the series next Friday, January 30.

The Black Women's Empowerment Collective (BWEC), a component of New Village's women's services, is also busy; it is currently accepting food and clothing donations that will be distributed locally to African-American women. The drive is entitled the "Winter Solstice Community Cooperative," and donations, which are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law, will be accepted through this Friday, January 23. The items will be given out this Wednesday, January 28.

Danielle Stringer-Shakur, an organizer for both efforts, said the discussion sessions will provide a forum for examining the myriad of issues facing the African-American queer community, including sexuality, creative interests, and the politics of being black and a sexual minority in society. Weekly guest facilitators will further enhance the richness of these interactive discussions by providing new insights on the various topics, she said.

"It's important to have a safe space such as 'Blunt Discussions' so that we can freely express our ideas and perspectives on issues affecting us all as African-Americans," said Stringer-Shakur.

Participants will be encouraged to provide direction to the group in order to truly reflect the group's interest.

The first "Blunt Discussions" meeting will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Eureka Valley Community Center, 100 Collingwood Street. Subsequent meetings will be held on the first and third Fridays of every month at the same time and place.

The "Winter Solstice Community Cooperative" has been tremendously successful, said Mario Solis-Marich, NTFAP's chief executive officer. "One of our [normally] empty offices is full of clothing," he told the *B.A.R.*, adding that Stringer-Shakur and other staff did a great job getting the word out.



Danielle Stringer-Shakur

The purpose behind getting the clothing and food donated will be realized this Wednesday, when the items will be distributed to African-American women in need. The BWEC is looking to assist them during the winter season, and point out that if the recent rains are any indication for the rest of winter, the clothing should be especially welcome. BWEC organizers will also provide information about social services available to African-American women.

"Black women and their families are being adversely affected by welfare reforms and cuts in food stamp programs," she noted. "With this food and clothing drive, we hope to show support for and empower black women in the community who are being affected by these changes."

New Village, formerly Brothers Network, seeks to recreate the queer black experience in the age of HIV/AIDS by providing a number of HIV prevention services, including discussion groups, intensive group meetings, personal development retreats, prevention case management, street/venue-based outreach, and job training and internships. The client services component offers treatment advocacy, intensive case management, client advocacy, and support services.

Donated items can be dropped off at the NTFAP offices, located at 973 Market Street, Suite 650; the January 28 distribution will take place in the seventh floor conference room, from noon to 4 p.m. ▼

For more information, including New Village's services, call Stringer-Shakur at (415) 356-8140, or Kevin Jenkins at (415) 356-8153.

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A new approach to treating HIV disease is being implemented by researchers in the bay area. Their approach is novel in that the therapy focuses directly on the immune system rather than on HIV which is the target of conventional therapy using antiretroviral drugs. This approach is also different from other therapies in that it attempts to control HIV by suppressing the immune system and will test some novel ideas about exactly how HIV causes disease. Using the drug "Cyclosporin A" they hope to slow down the immune activation which is associated with the progression of HIV disease. This approach may be particularly useful in patients who do not benefit from protease inhibitors.

Despite recent progress in the treatment of HIV infection, the mechanism by which HIV damages the immune system is still not fully understood. This would not be an issue if HIV could be eradicated from the body before drug resistance develops. Elimination of this virus is a worthy goal which should result in better health and longer survival regardless of the disease mechanism, but it has not yet been demonstrated. After all, if the virus causes immunodeficiency and the virus is gone, the destruction of the immune system should slow down, stop, or even reverse. However it is already clear that many HIV infected individuals (for a variety of reasons) do not get, or cannot sustain, a large reduction of viral load, even with the best known treatments. For these individuals, a different approach may lead to the treatment of the disease mechanism even when the viral load can't be reduced or eliminated.

The most widely held concept of the disease mechanism is that the virus kills more CD4 cells than the body can replace. An alternative theory is that the body is actually quite capable of replacing CD4 cells but the very process which maintains the correct number of CD4 cells is "confused" or perhaps "overworked" by excessive immune activation, a well known consequence of HIV infection. If the idea that HIV-1 causes AIDS by excess immune activation is true, the logical treatment would be to eliminate the excess immune activation, returning the immune system to more normal function. In the mid-1980's scientists had this very idea and were bold enough to try a drug called Cyclosporin-A (CsA), an immune suppressing drug used in patients receiving kidney transplants, to try to treat patients with AIDS. At the right dose, CsA prevents kidney graft rejection but does not cause severe immunodeficiency. The idea is that, in HIV infected individuals, CsA might eliminate the excess immune activation without interfering with normal immune defenses. Unfortunately this pioneering research received limited support and attention as research has focused on viral eradication. Additionally, there was not much known about the immune system in HIV-1 infection and what was the best way to measure or predict immune restoration. But some of the patients, treated with CsA, did well clinically and had increased CD4 counts. Other HIV-1 infected patients who received CsA as part of their treatment for kidney transplants also did well, taking significantly longer to develop AIDS than patients who did not receive CsA.

A group of scientists, known as the Cyclosporin Study Group, whose members include research immunologists, internists and infectious disease specialists, have banded together and begun a study known as the "Cyclosporin-A Study in HIV-1 Disease." This is a 3month study during which patients will take Cyclosporin-A and be evaluated for its effects on their immune system. Enrollment is limited to people with HIV-1 infection, CD4 counts between 300 and 600 cells/ml and who are otherwise well. To find out about specific eligibility criteria, please call Debbie Hildebrandt, at Virx, Inc. at 415-353-5623 and ask about the Cyclosporin-a study in HIV-1 disease. Additional information regarding this study can be obtained from Dr. Michael Ascher, at 510-540-2580.

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If you would be interested in participating in this study, please contact Mark Jurek at 1-800-331-1010. Upon calling, you will be asked to leave your name, address and home telephone number. Questionnaires will be mailed to all participants.

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Pride '98

◀ page 1

logos, ranging from such businesses as American Airlines, Bud Light, Miller, Odwalla, and Smirnoff to the city government's Grants for the Arts program.

Very likely Pride 98 will be officially sponsored by a host hotel, an airline, a tour operator, and a car-rental agency. British Airways reportedly is considering becoming a major backer of the event.

Code of conduct, confidentiality

Along with the increasing corporatization of the event goes a new emphasis on professionalism in running the show. If Witherington gets his way, all members of the organizing committee will be expected to adhere to a code of conduct and avoid conflicts of interest.

Moreover, to keep special interest groups from taking control of the organization to push their agendas, Witherington plans to undertake an ambitious program of membership expansion. A larger member base would prevent "packing" of the general membership meetings by groups allied with particular organizations, as has occurred in the past.

Finally, in a move that raises eyebrows among those fighting to ensure that city-funded nonprofit organizations make all of their records public, Witherington wants all Pride Committee members to agree to keep the organization's business transactions confidential.

Such developments, some of which are well underway, are a departure from Pride events of yore, in the days when the emphasis was on demanding freedom and rights, on the politics of defiance.

Reid Condit, who from the early to mid-1980s served on the board of directors of the Freedom Day Parade committee — predecessor to today's Pride Parade and Celebration Committee — is one of those who laments Pride's getting away from its roots.

"The Freedom Day Committee was more progressive," says Condit. It would take political stands, such as the time it filed suit against the federal government's Immigration and Naturalization Service for preventing gay and lesbian immigrants from entering the United States.

As the parade and celebration gained in size and stature and began looking for support from mainstream — often non-gay — businesses, "the committee became too conservative," said Condit.

"I think with corporate sponsors, a major part of the community is sold out. The people the committee should be courting are not the corporations, but the people who are underrepresented," Condit believes many of Pride 98's commercial backers "don't have in mind the best interests of the lesbian and gay community."

The Pride organization has a political role to play, adds Condit, by introducing fresh ideas. "It's in a position to change things."

Politics vs. party

The trend toward a more festive, less activist event is "a natural evolution away from Pride's roots," says Witherington. "It's one of those eternal Pride conundrums: Is it politics? Is it party? I don't know."

"It's both," responds Pride Committee President Deborah Oakley-Melvin. The shift away from Freedom Day activism to Pride weekend celebration is nothing new, she adds: "It hasn't

just happened in the last year. It's been moving away from its roots for many, many years. That's a natural evolution."

Oakley-Melvin says she values protest and political expression, but thinks them unnecessary and out of place at a parade and celebration where "you're embraced by everyone around you and they're all reflecting what is best for the community."

The era Condit refers to, says Oakley-Melvin, "was a very powerful time. If he wants that kind of a Pride celebration, there are many places around the world where it does still exist."

"There are people all over the world who think that San Francisco Pride must be the best as well as the biggest," says Oakley-Melvin. "At the moment, it is the biggest, apart from Sydney [Australia], but it doesn't have the same level of professionalism in all the areas it might have, because we haven't spent the money, and we haven't commercialized it. We've kept it as grassroots as we possibly can."

Oakley-Melvin acknowledges that people in San Francisco are political: "They care that their issues are addressed at their event, but frankly they're addressed all year round by so many organizations. We're dealing with the issues every day."

"My job," says Witherington, "is to ensure that whatever gets organized, people that want politics and people that want to have a party are equally able to do so."

"I wouldn't want anyone to get the impression I wasn't a political animal," adds Witherington. "I come from a very political viewpoint about things. I think one thing a lot of people don't realize, living inside San Francisco, is the enormous effect San Francisco Pride has on the rest of the world. It's this shining beacon."

Bake sale days of yore

The commercialization of Pride "is an inevitable thing," maintains Oakley-Melvin. "It's neither good nor bad. We have to depend on sponsorship from all sorts of different companies because we're not able to simply get money from Grants for the Arts or from anywhere else."

The days of bake sales and grassroots fundraising "are not completely over," she adds, but now that the queer community has become "a viable commodity" that commercial interests want to capitalize on, "we just have to make a responsible decision about whose money to take and what we're going to do with it."

Alas, in its present financial condition, the Pride Committee can't afford to be too picky about whom it takes money from. Currently the organization is struggling to pay off hefty debts accumulated from last year's Pride event (as of early January, the committee still owed nearly \$96,000 to various creditors), meaning it is having to run hard just to stay in place, much less get ahead.

With pledges of \$50,000 each from Hard Rock Cafe and Anheuser-Busch, the committee will likely be able to retire that debt in the near future, but it has yet to take in the kind of money that will be needed to ensure Pride 98 meets expectations for being the biggest, best event yet.

London pride

The issues nagging Pride 98 are ones that dogged Witherington for years in his former role as producer of London Pride, a position he held since 1992, when he co-founded The Pride Trust to manage that city's Pride parade

and festival.

"The Pride Trust has a history of carrying forward losses from year to year," says Garath Pritchard, who served as finance manager of the organization until last May, when he resigned "in protest" because the Trust directors refused to cut the budget.

"I'd managed to get to the point where all the outstanding creditors had been paid," Pritchard adds, "but not enough money was coming in to put on the event at the budgeted cost. I suggested making a 30-percent cut, but it wasn't accepted. I couldn't in good conscience remain in the post."

While Pritchard is not prepared to point a finger exclusively at Witherington for The Pride Trust's pitfalls, and acknowledges that the budget was a collective responsibility of the Trust's directors, he feels that Witherington exerted extraordinary influence over the directors, who "were in awe of his personality and charisma."

"It's mismanagement that put London Pride in the hole," says Pritchard.

Still, concedes Pritchard, Witherington's influence over the way London Pride grew "is remarkable and very important. The way Pride UK has changed must be recognized and applauded."

"I don't doubt Teddy's ability to organize things," says Stuart Who, editor of QX magazine, a gay publication in London. "But still, at the end of the day, The Pride Trust was still in debt."

In England, newspapers carried reports of London Pride's financial chaos, as well as of a debate over its growing commercialization.

"This week, frantic efforts will be made to rescue the ailing Pride Trust, which has plunged into financial crisis amid accusations of political infighting and organizational incompetence," reported *The Guardian* last November 17.

The Manchester-based publication reported that despite taking in record contributions of some £200,000 (about US\$326,000) from commercial sponsors, the trust ended up in debt to the tune of some £170,000 (US\$277,000), prompting all but one of the trust's directors to resign.

In a comment closely echoing concerns of Condit and other critics of San Francisco Pride, the *Guardian* added that "the chaos has fueled fears [in London] that the debt-ridden trust risks losing sight of its roots in the gay community as it becomes ever more reliant on sponsorship from large commercial interests seeking to cash in on the so-called pink economy."

The paper noted that while Witherington "was responsible for securing the record amount of sponsorship" for London Pride, he had "provoked accusations that Pride was selling out its principles and marginalizing the gay community's small businesses."

So precarious was the situation for The Pride Trust that it verged on collapse, only to be bailed out at the last moment by two lesbian entrepreneurs.

"London Pride is a pop concert now, rather than a gay-pride event," says Grgreg Taylor, who co-chaired the San Francisco Pride Committee in 1993, "The Year of the Queer."

Still, says Taylor, a successful dance-club organizer, "the [San Francisco] Pride Committee needs business people." He holds high hopes for Pride 98 under Witherington's control: "His only limitation is the parade committee itself." ▼

HIVCare

C U R R E N T T R I A L S

1) *Glaxo Wellcome's New Protease Inhibitor 141W94 vs Crixivan*

141W94 is compared with Crixivan
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2) *A Phase I study for non-nucleoside S-1153.*

This one month study requires one overnight stay,
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Compensation for completed participation is \$500.

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Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization - and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Earl Galvin

May 3, 1946 - Jan. 14, 1998

Paul's gentle son, our beloved bard. Earl lived and died as he wished, leaving us at Coming Home Hospice in San Francisco. His loving sister, Melanie, and devoted friend, Dan Smith, were



with him at his side.

Earl came into his own and came out during the social revolution of the '60s and '70s. He acted upon everything he believed in and was at the forefront of the Gay Liberation Movement. Earl was the first openly gay man to travel to Cuba. A natural ambassador, he used his communication gifts to help build the international Esperanto movement.

Earl's activism was multifaceted and community based. His brilliance enhanced SF Jacks, California N.O.R.M.L., Radical Faeries, The Temple Whores and Rainbow gatherings!

An astrologer by trade, Earl's playful Taurean humor and love of earthly delights charmed us all. True to a bard, he created magic with both harp and pennywhistle.

A native of Detroit, Earl lived most of his adult life in San Francisco, as an active visionary in the dream of gay liberation. A confirmed bachelor, his life was rich in loving friendships.

Faggot wizard and free spirit, ribald and wise, through it all, the bells on his jester's cap could be heard twinkling. Blessed be!

Larry L. Romano

Dec. 7, 1957 - Aug. 19, 1997



A remarkable man left us on that rainy day. All of us were in some personal way touched by Larry's unique style and presence. He was a gifted person, full of spunkiness and exuberance for life. He

lived life to the fullest, and during his 39 years, he accomplished more than most people do in a full 70-year lifetime.

Larry's most unique gift was making each one of us feel as if we were the most important person on earth. His love of life included his love for the music and life of the 1920s and 1930s. An Art Deco Society Ball, he truly enjoyed. This interest carried over to his work and hobby of restoring and collecting old phonographs, radios, clocks and antiques.

Up to the last few days and hours, Larry was still enjoying life with a smile, still making friends, determined to hold on to life as long as he could. Donations in his name will be gladly accepted for the Circle of Friends/National AIDS Memorial Grove, SF AIDS Foundation, Ellipse San Mateo County or the American Cancer Society.

Hospitality fixture
Fred Lavre dies at 68

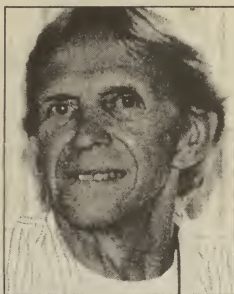
by Seraphina Langusto

Waiter/chef extraordinaire Fred Lavre, who enjoyed a remarkable 40-year career working in renowned San Francisco restaurants, died Sunday, January 4. He was 68.

A native San Franciscan, Lavre was born February 4, 1929 and spent his childhood on Potrero Hill, living in the 19th-century Missouri Street home that has been in his family for almost a hundred years. He began his culinary exploits in 1950 as a waiter at the Paper Doll in North Beach. When Gordon Jones and Dick Templeton left the Paper Doll in 1953 to open the soon-to-be-legendary Gordon's Restaurant at Sansome and Broadway, they took Fred with them.

Many celebrities frequented the popular Gordon's, including Herb Caen, Anita O'Day, Tallulah Bankhead, and a very young Johnny Mathis. The singer always requested Fred's station.

During the 1960s, Fred blossomed as a chef at On the Levee,



Fred Lavre

on the San Francisco waterfront. Halloween's there saw him hosting huge soirées, with the inimitable David Kelsey manning the organ. Busloads of revelers would arrive at On the Levee, each bus with its own theme for the occasion.

In the 1970s, Fred took up cooking duties at Ron Cavallo's Fickle Fox on Valencia Street, and popped up in the '80s at Leonard Mollet's 527 on Bryant Street (later Chez Mollet). He retired in 1991.

For the last five years, Fred

resided at a senior apartment building on Eddy Street. He was well-liked by the staff and the residents there. His longtime heart condition was unfortunately not improved by surgery in late 1996. Happily, he remained comfortable in his apartment until the last few weeks of his life, and was expertly cared for at Coming Home Hospice just prior to his death.

Fred was blessed with many old, close friends who were always there for him. They include Ron Warren, Chester Wisniewski, Gene Hardy, Mike Gonzales, Larry Howell and Don Rogers. His loving brother, Roy, and his family were very supportive of Fred. He was especially fond of his "trio of wonderful aunts," Vera, Anna and Audrey.

In Fred's later years, he was adopted by an extended Southern family that stretched from Alfred Doolittle and Stewart Butler in New Orleans to his great friend, Cliff Howard, in Atlanta. Undoubtedly, Fred is now catching up with Mel Gile, Ray Saunders, Dallas Reichstein, and Harry Dobbs. He will not be forgotten. ▼

Friends to gather to remember Kathy Acker

by Seraphina Langusto

Kathy Acker, the prolific author of influential works like *Empire of the Senseless*, *Blood and Guts in High School*, *My Mother, a Demonology*, and *Pussy, King of the Pirates*, died November 30, at age 50, from cardiopulmonary failure. After surgery, Acker, a strong proponent of non-traditional medical practices, died while undergoing spiritual and herbal therapies for her cancer. She was, in her own words, "a cancer warrior."

Acker was widely regarded as one of the most important avant-garde writers of her generation. Her collage style, in which she drew from classic texts, pop literature, cultural theory, and her own dreams and imagination, placed her solidly within the tradition of such literary giants as William S. Burroughs. Acker was a larger-than-life figure, admired



Kathy Acker

by the denizens of wildly disparate subcultures that ranged from body-manipulating modern primitives to neo-feminists, from sexually transgressive riot grrls to highbrow cultural theorists.

For most of the '90s, Acker made her home in San Francisco, where she was a teacher and occasional journalist. Her last complet-

ed work, *Requiem*, an elegiac three-act opera commissioned by the American Opera Project, will be performed later this year under the baton of its composer, Ken Valitsky.

This Thursday, January 22, Acker's friends and admirers will gather at 8 p.m. at Slim's, located at 333 11th Street, to mourn her death, celebrate her life, and honor her memory with an evening of music, ritual, and spoken word. Among those appearing will be performance artists Winston Tong and Jade-Blue Eclipse; spoken word performers Susie Bright, Anna Joy Springer, Kevin Killian, Dodie Bellamy, Robert Glück, and John Shirley; musicians Stephen Kent and Beth Custer; and bands Tribe 8 and Dirtbox. This event, with a \$10 suggested donation, will be hosted by San Francisco filmmaker Machiko Saiko and R.U. Serious of *Mondo 2000* magazine. For more information, call 543-3685. ▼

HIV PERSPECTIVE

ALLRT: Designing longterm clinical trials

by Matthew Sharp, ACT UP/
Golden Gate Writers Pool

If clinical trials continue in the current trend, AIDS research will suffer and the advances made up to now will be for naught. There are inherent design problems with trials today that must be changed if progress is to continue in the coming years.

Hopefully a change is in the works that may resolve most of the issues and bring us eventually to a cure.

Several ACT UP Writers Pool articles have focused on ill-designed AIDS clinical trials today. Poor design is resulting in declining enrollment. Research

institutions are struggling to get people with HIV into trials at a time when most drugs that have proven effective are available at the pharmacy or through various assistance programs. One of the biggest incentives for entering a study, drug access, is no longer the driving factor it once was, when people with AIDS were more des-

play longterm follow-up studies, which can answer questions about toxicities and effectiveness in a more real-world scenario.

Advantages

Activists have been demanding longterm studies for years. Trials now look at a snapshot of a patient's treatment history. They involve defined subgroups comparing one drug against another in a fixed duration or short term.

This has been a requirement of the FDA in order to approve the drug for marketing. But in the real world, head-to-head, fixed duration studies do not accurately portray the way people with AIDS should be treated.

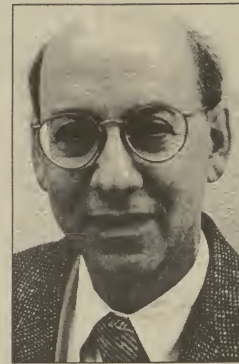
The AIDS Clinical Trials Group is one research group devising a new system of following people over the long term. Funded through the National Institutes of Health, the ACTG is the largest of the federal institutions performing AIDS clinical research. Not always known for its aggressive, cutting edge research, the

named chair of the AACTG Complications Research Agenda Committee, which sets priorities for research in AIDS complications. When asked why ALLRT would be important in today's research picture, Jacobson replied, "Everyone with HIV disease will be better served by trials that answer the most important questions related to the impact of the new antiretroviral treatments on the longterm health of people with this disease."

He added, "Monitoring a very large group of patients over many years, this type of longterm follow-up of patients who have been enrolled in randomized trials is not done in industry-sponsored trials."

With longterm follow-up through ALLRT, patients will be randomized to two or more treatment arms and followed until their virus breaks through or becomes detectable. Then they will move on to another trial, based on what treatment they need and what is available at that point. If no trials fit their criteria, they will continue to be monitored until the right study comes along. Other patients will enter during the course of ALLRT in other trials, depending on their resistance status, prior drug history, and viral load, and the matrix will grow, build, and interconnect.

One big complaint about studies today is that participants sometimes aren't given results to lab tests until the study is over. This unethical practice will end with ALLRT. Viral load and other



Dr. Mark Jacobson

blood tests will be provided to the participant as they are performed. Other incentives, such as payment, have been discussed to encourage enrollment. Plans to store specimen samples are underway, which could provide crucial information down the line.

Obstacles

Since ALLRT is still in the planning stages, community members hope that the real intention of the study will remain intact after all the researchers have given their input. Because of past bureaucratic problems with the ACTG, many innovative ideas have been squelched by the changes made to a concept or protocol.

All of the technicalities involved in ALLRT may seem mind-boggling, and one may wonder how the ACTG can pull off such an inventive system given its limited resources.

Jacobson said, "To some extent, that is true. There are a limited amount of resources available to the ACTG. The intensity with which patients enrolled in ALLRT will be studied will probably lower the overall number of patients that can be enrolled in trials, but we think we can learn answers to more important questions in this way."

ALLRT should be in full swing by the end of the year, he said. ▼

One big complaint about studies today is that participants aren't given timely results to lab tests.

perate. Also, opportunistic infection studies have become difficult to enroll because fewer people are experiencing clinical manifestations of AIDS. Other design issues such as strict entry criteria, which restrict people who have been on previous therapy, have placed a stranglehold on AIDS research. Therefore, trials enroll too slowly, and by the time studies are completed, the information gained is often outdated and not useful.

Researchers and people with AIDS are urging a new system of studying HIV in this era of potent combination therapies, viral resistance, and overwhelming confusion about how to best use the drugs. More answers need to be found in people who have used all of their treatment options. One effective strategy would be to em-

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AEF service

◀ page 14

March.

"We're really, really trying to get it back up to \$500," said Turner.

Board members needed

In other matters, AEF is currently looking for people who are interested in becoming board members. Berthelsen and Turner said there are only seven directors now, and they are hoping to increase that to 15. Especially needed are people who have fundraising experience, people with experience working with ASOs, and those with accounting backgrounds. Women and people of color are also being encouraged to apply. People do not have to live in San Francisco; in fact, Turner said AEF would like more board representation from the other counties it serves.

In terms of fundraising, Turner said that Kerry Enright has come on board as an independent contractor one day per week. Enright, the former executive direc-

tor of the AIDS Memorial Grove, is concentrating on fund development for AEF, particularly from foundations and corporations.

AEF needs to raise \$1.7 million in private or grant funds this year to continue serving its clients. Federal Ryan White CARE funds from San Francisco and Alameda counties help in those areas; last year, AEF received \$800,000 from the city and \$70,000 from Alameda County. "Alameda has come through with money, from fundraising and CARE funds," explained Turner.

The organization is the beneficiary of numerous charity events each year in San Francisco. Because last year's first "Heart of Gold" campaign was so successful, raising some \$45,000 for AEF, it will probably be repeated this year. A holiday fundraising letter brought in an additional \$38,000.

"But it's still not enough," said Enright. ▼

To apply for the board of directors, make a financial donation, or inquire about services, call (415) 558-6999.

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McVeigh goes to court

by Bob Roehr

The Navy is trying to kick out 17-year veteran petty officer Timothy McVeigh (no relation to the Oklahoma City bomber of the same name) because an American Online profile has the word "gay" in it. McVeigh claims the "evidence" of his owning that account was obtained illegally, but he isn't saying whether or not he is gay.

McVeigh v. Cohen is the official case name, an instant cause célèbre among the gay and online communities. "What is at issue in this case is that the Navy broke the Electronic Communications Privacy Act [ECPA], and it broke the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue' [DADT] policy" of gays in the military, said Dixon Osburn, spokesman for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

The action played out in a federal courtroom at the foot of Capitol Hill on Tuesday, January 20. Judge Stanley Sporkin, 65, is an animated figure, constantly chewing on ice cubes. He is a Reagan appointee with a reputation for even-handedness. He was likely assigned the case because of his experience as judge in the challenge to DADT several years ago by Marine Sergeant Justin Elzie.

McVeigh has demonstrated "superior leadership" and "the core Navy values that guarantee success," said his attorney, Christopher Wolf, reading from a recent fitness report on the sailor by his commanding officer. He ar-

gued that an online profile "is not a declaration that it is true," and that such evidence "did not rise to a level to warrant a court order." It did not constitute a basis for investigation under DADT.

Furthermore, in contacting AOL to make the connection between the profile and McVeigh, the Navy violated the ECPA. The naval investigator did identify himself as being with the military. And he did not obtain a court order, which the law demands. Thus the evidence was gathered illegally and should have been suppressed.

AOL admitted at the hearing that because of human error, it violated its own policy of privacy in revealing McVeigh's name.

Sporkin does not use the Internet and seemed to have a hard time grasping the fluid nature of online profiles. As regular users of America Online know, each account may have up to five different profiles, which may be fact, fantasy, or a mix of both. Merely because something has been keyed in does not make it true. But the government's case seems based on the idea that the word "gay" in McVeigh's profile is all that is necessary to prove he is gay.

Sporkin asked Department of Justice attorney David Glass, "Is a bio [online profile] enough of a ticket for getting kicked out?"

"Yes," came the reply, because "statement implies conduct." McVeigh presumably did not rebut that presumption, despite the fact that the court record of his military trial shows that he dated women and was once engaged to be married.

"How do you rebut, you bring in a woman and have sex with her?" queried Sporkin. Nervous laughter filled the courtroom for a brief second.

Glass argued that ECPA does not prohibit the government from calling AOL and asking for certain

DADT. In it, as in a weekend appearance on National Public Radio, he railed against the Navy for undermining that policy with its shoddy implementation.

He said that if the Navy violated ECPA, the case should be dropped. "Any other outcome would send an improper message to the government sanctioning improper and illegal investigations." Furthermore, "This sort of heavy handed 'enforcement' by the Navy will inadvertently undermine the policy by eroding confidence among servicemen that the Navy will not 'ask' if they do not 'tell.'"

Judge Sporkin did not issue a ruling on McVeigh's request for an injunction barring separation from the Navy, nor did he issue a temporary restraining order while more evidence is gathered for presentation. The government said that regulations prohibit them from discharging McVeigh while he is on leave to appear in court, but they did intend to do so when he returns to duty at midnight on Friday.

Sporkin indicated that after 17 years, McVeigh did have a vested interest in continuing service, and that "the better way is to keep him on." His decision is expected by Friday. ▼

Gay GLs in fear and doubt after McVeigh action

by Peter Cassels

The Navy's pending discharge of Senior Chief Petty Officer Timothy R. McVeigh after he anonymously described himself in an America Online profile [see accompanying story, this page] is having a chilling effect on gay military personnel who use the online service, according to one active-duty sailor who agreed to an interview if he were not identified.

The career non-commissioned officer said he and others in his gay network of co-workers and friends have reexamined how they use AOL, and have taken precautionary steps to help prevent discovery by the Navy.

McVeigh, a highly decorated 17-year career enlisted man who until recently served aboard the nuclear attack submarine Chicago stationed in Hawaii, was to have been discharged January 21, after the Navy delayed the action following worldwide news media attention.

The Navy contends that it discovered McVeigh's identity from AOL. At the discharge hearing in November, an investigator testified he phoned the online service, without acknowledging his connection to the Navy, and was given McVeigh's identity just by giving AOL a screen name. AOL has denied it releases such information, except under subpoena.

The matter has focused renewed attention on the Pentagon's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy regarding gays and lesbians, and raised concerns over privacy issues in cyberspace.

The NCO said the Navy has the technology to get the information on McVeigh without AOL's help. The Navy Civilian Investigative Service (NCIS), the unit which investigates personnel, likely has the ability to bypass AOL. "I'm sure they have access," he said. "They could have found out because he may have told someone else what his screen name was. And they didn't have to go to AOL. I think they used that as their cover."

He has changed his AOL profile. "I removed my first name and changed my location from the state where I'm based to 'East Coast,'" he reported. "And, although I didn't use the word 'gay'

in the profile, my personal quotation — a good man is hard to find and vice versa — might have given me away. I changed it."

During searches of AOL profiles, he has seen many which include the words "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" or the acronym DADT, a tip-off that they belong to military personnel, he said.

He has stopped visiting gay chat rooms, like one named military m4m, devoted to gay and bisexual military men: "I'm afraid to go there anymore, because the NCIS may be trying to get the rest of us."

He's not alone in being paranoid, the NCO said. "Other people I've talked to are wondering what is going to happen next." Everyone has a lot at stake, he explained. Careers and personal relationships are on the line: "Bisexuality is a big thing in the military. There are a lot of people who are [married], and yet online they talk about wanting to have fulfilling experiences with people of the same sex. I think it has affected everybody. It's the first time that I had to sit back and say, 'Wait a minute. I'd better be careful about what I'm doing.'"

His gay buddies are all more cautious since the McVeigh case. "There's no way that any of us are free — at least like we thought we were," he continued. "I have met people who said they were hours away even in other states, far away on the other coast, and yet found out that they were right here locally. Living right across the street from me. And I've met people who live on base who say they are cautious because they don't know if the base is monitoring their computers."

The sailor said his father is deceased, but his mother knows he is gay. "She called me and said, 'Hey, you have got to be careful because of this thing with Timothy McVeigh.' It's the first time ever that she had addressed this issue. She is concerned that I'm going to get thrown out."

The NCO said he plans on serving 20 years and then retiring, but is concerned about jeopardizing his pension. Even if the Navy finds out he is gay after he retires, he could lose his pension, he contended. "They can just take it away on a whim, by just saying I executed a fraudulent contract when I enlisted." ▼

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Bike coastal

by Jim Provenzano

With all the bicycle-friendly politics in the Bay Area, it's no surprise that cycling is one of the more popular recreational sports among all kinds of Northern Californians. Certainly that includes a lot of gays and lesbians. In fact, a recent survey of Bicycle Coalition members shows that gay men make up the majority of the group.

One member who's been a cycling fan longer than most is 65-year-old Oakland resident Derek Liecny. A Team San Francisco member and a board member of Different Spokes — the area's most popular gay and lesbian biking group, with over 300 members — Liecny has been involved with Gay Games since its inception in 1982. He first competed in cycling in 1986, and "in 1990, in Vancouver, [when] we added mountain biking for the first time," he won a gold medal in the Mountain Bike race for ages 42 and up.

Four years later, in the Gay Games in New York — Brooklyn, actually — he won a silver medal in individual time trial for ages 50 and up.

How does this 65-year-old man train for an Olympic event only six months away? "Come daylight savings time, it'll be easier," he jokes. "I make an effort to ride about 3-4,000 miles a year, which may sound like a lot, but it's not."

As for the team and club training, he says, "We have had a very enthusiastic group who did a lot of training in Golden Gate Park in the spring. I hope we can get something like that going again."

Putting it together

Liecny's support of cycling also extends to his duties as a board member of the Federation of Gay Games. He has planned a trip to Amsterdam to check out facilities this May, and is currently "working with local cycling organizers to help them put the event together," he says.

The cycling events for Gay Games '98 will include:

- A countryside warm-up tour of the Dutch countryside;
- A Criterium/Road Race, which will be a 60-kilometer (about 7 miles) team race;
- Individual time trials: women's 12.5-kilometers; men's license holders 25K; men's non-license holders 12.5K; and
- Indoor course events in the Amsterdamse bos: women's 60 minutes; men's 80 minutes.

"We had to do a lot of lobbying to get them to add mountain biking," Liecny says. "I've been over there. There is a facility on a landfill, but it was considered too far out of town." He anticipates a well-organized Games, although he acknowledges there can always be gaps in any event that relies upon unpaid workers. "With volunteers, who have a lot of expertise and enthusiasm in some areas but not in others," he says, "you take what you get."

As a member of the Federation's Outreach Committee, Liecny proudly mentions committee members' efforts "to get under-represented areas like South Africa, Argentina, and Peru — places where we've never even had a [competing athlete] — to promote the Games." He calls the in-

ternational sports gathering "the greatest empowering event of any gay and lesbian event."

And although it seems likely that fewer Different Spokes members will attend this Gay Games than the events of four and eight years ago, Liecny anticipates a good turnout overall. "The whole thing about the Games is that this is the

first time it's off the continent [of North America]," he says. "I am so enthusiastic about taking this event into a new world. We may have fewer people, but from more countries. I'm not sure what the numbers are going to be for cycling. I know we have over 200 registered from around the world."

One slight sticking point, admittedly, is the cost of getting all those bikes from all over the world to Amsterdam. "Unfortunately, airlines are starting to charge \$50 to \$75 each way to take a bike," Liecny says. "Most people who are serious about competing will take their own bikes. But there will be rentals available."

Criterion criteria?

Chris Hilburn, who's been



Derek Liecny and Chris Hilburn will do the continental this summer.

with Different Spokes for three years, will be one of those taking her new bike (a Greg LeMond, named for the famous biker, who designed the model to his own preferences) to Amsterdam from San Francisco.

Raised in Southern Germany, she moved to San Francisco in 1993, and has participated in several treks with Different Spokes to Tahoe, Mount Diablo, and other scenic regions. "We go to the picnics and pool parties, too, of

course. My girlfriend and I also go to Marin a lot." She calls the camaraderie of Bay Area queer folk "like a childhood dream."

Although Hilburn has cycled all over Europe, she never did it competitively. For Amsterdam, she says, she is "trying to focus on time trials and the Criterium."

"A Criterium in the U.S. is a short course, less than a mile," she explains. "It's flat and usually in an industrial park, 45 minutes around and around, plus three laps. You go around in a pack, full out high speed. It's a curling-over-the-handlebars kind of effort!"

"In Amsterdam, it sounds like they're a little confused. They are setting it up a little differently. I've heard they have a track."

Whatever the format, Hilburn

will compete in that event and in the time trial, which she describes as "basically a full-out single effort where everybody is by themselves and you go as fast and far as you as you can over a short distance."

She, like Liecny, stressed that participation, not competition, will be the focus.

Like many Gay Games participants, Hilburn has other travel plans around her Amsterdam trip. She has not been back to Europe for two years and wants to watch the world soccer championship with Italian pals (who appreciate soccer more, shall we say, fervently than most Americans), and hopes to catch the last stages of the Tour de France. Being from Europe, she also knows the face of the competition. "European cyclists are so strong," she says. "All I can do is focus on my own work."

"But," she laughs, "competing in Europe probably means we're gonna get our asses kicked!" ▼

Due to a change of event scheduling, Gay Games registration for all cycling has been extended to March 15, with no late fee. Cyclists interested in biking with Different Spokes, or competing in Gay Games, can call Derek at (510) 339-2345. For more info on Gay Games, call +31(0) 20 427 1998, e-mail info@gaygames.nl, or write Gay Games Amsterdam 1998, PO Box 2837, 1000 CV Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

GAY GAMES UPDATE

Hotel rooms still available in Amsterdam

by Francis Cox

Even though hotel accommodations during Gay Games Amsterdam 1998 are booking up fast, there are still hotel rooms in Amsterdam to be had at all prices, according to Ronald Boonacker of European Gayways. "We still have the best locations and are the least expensive tour operator," says Boonacker, one of the official American travel partners for Gay Games Amsterdam 1998. "We can also offer competitive air travel to the Games."

From August 1-8, Amsterdam will have as many as 15,000 participants and some 200,000 visitors arrive for the biggest gay and lesbian event of the century. Amsterdam hotel owners have been eagerly awaiting this bonanza, and available hotel space is being snapped up fast. The expected demand is such that tour operators are reserving hotel space in Diemen, Utrecht, Den Haag, and other areas in the immediate vicinity of Amsterdam.

"Holland is a small country, and public transport is excellent," says Boonacker. "Even people who book late, and have to stay on the outskirts of metropolitan Amsterdam, will still be in easy reach of all the festivities."

For the moment, though, there is still plenty of hotel space available. Rooms can be booked through European Gayways by calling 1-800-923-3308 (toll-free) or (619)-682-5111, or by fax at (619)-682-5117. To speak to the Netherlands Reservations Center directly, dial 1-31-70-419-5500 (remember, the time in Amsterdam is nine hours later than in San Francisco); fax them at 1-31-70-419-5519. ▼

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Migden introduces AIDS license plate bill

by Marghe Covino

A bill to create a special license plate commemorating the fight against AIDS was introduced by Assembly member Carole Migden, D-San Francisco, on January 12.

Designed to raise funds for research and enhance awareness that AIDS is a public health issue which affects all Californians, AB 1663 will grant a special license to any registered vehicle owner for an additional \$50 over the regular registration fee. Migden estimates that the special plates will raise \$500,000 in the first year, with additional revenues raised upon renewal.

Currently the funds generated from AB 1663 are earmarked for

the AIDS Research Center at the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF). However, there is some criticism regarding that allocation, and suggestions have been made that the money go to the entire UC system. It is anticipated that there will be some changes made in AB 1663 to accommodate those suggestions.

Migden said, "We are making incredible strides in our fight to stem this epidemic in California. California's research institutions are worldwide leaders in the effort to advance new treatments for AIDS and HIV. We need to be vigilant and pledge additional resources to win this fight."

Early supporters of AB 1663 are the City and County of San Francisco, and the American Foundation for AIDS Research. ▼

Commission on Status of Women to fund violence against women programs

by Cynthia Laird

Organizations and agencies that deal with violence against women are being encouraged to apply for funds through the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women. Between 1998 and 2001, as much as \$2.4 million could be available for each of the three fiscal years for services and programs addressing violence against women and girls in San Francisco. Today (Thursday, January 15) the commission released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for several programs; the application deadline is Tuesday, March 3.

Melyssa Jo Kelly, administrator of the commission's violence against women programs, said the \$2.4 million in funding each fiscal year is contingent on the city's budget being approved with that amount budgeted each time.

The commission invites applications from a wide range of local organizations, including ethnic-identified, human rights, social justice, community organizing, faith-based, arts, media, and neighborhood-oriented agencies. The RFQ covers the following:

- Violence prevention educa-

tion - to prevent the abuse and assault of women and girls, and to prevent men and boys from engaging in violence against women, through public awareness campaigns, training programs, community outreach, and education;

- Intervention/advocacy programs - to address domestic violence and sexual assault before crisis services are needed, with varied services, including multi-disciplinary screening and referrals;

- Crisis services for survivors - to assist women who have been raped or battered, through emergency shelters, victim advocacy, and accompaniment, crisis lines, and legal services; and

- Transitional/advocacy services - to help survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence achieve economic independence, recover from victimization, and move from trauma to healing.

Community-based organizations, nonprofit agencies, independent consultants, and service providers are encouraged to apply for the funding. ▼

To request a copy of the RFQ public announcement, call Melyssa Jo Kelly at (415) 252-2570.

Sacto Dems

◀ page 1

to the success of the San Francisco legislation, that 600,000 people are covered by healthcare benefits and the cost is not prohibitive.

Art Crony of the Committee on Moral Concerns predictably weighed in against the bill, and Senator Ray Haynes, R-Temecula, after a long, emotional speech which was described by several spectators as "a tirade," said the bill discriminates against employers who have a moral objection to homosexuality.

Visibly upset, Hayden said, "This bill is obviously about gay issues, but it's also about public policy and health coverage and an economic discrimination that goes very deep - because you're creating a second class of citizens with respect to healthcare, bereavement leave, and family leave.

I find it really tragic that people are blocked from having health benefits and other benefits because of the way they live, even though they work seven to eight hours a day just like everyone else."

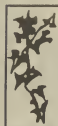
This week is the deadline for the two-year bills, like Hayden's, to pass their first committee. The bill was introduced last year and was rejected in committee on a 3-4 vote the first time around. Joe Holland, legislative aide to Hayden, said that while SB 841 is dead, there is a good probability that these issues will be brought to the table again.

"The next time, we'll make more progress," Holland said. "This is about civil rights and human rights, and Tom feels so strongly about these issues, it's gotta happen."

"Yeah," laughed another aide, "all we need is a little help from our friends." ▼

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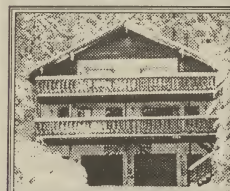
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Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29 1998.

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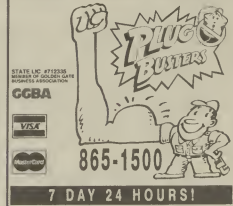
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Rocky Crawford
Continued on p. B7-12/283

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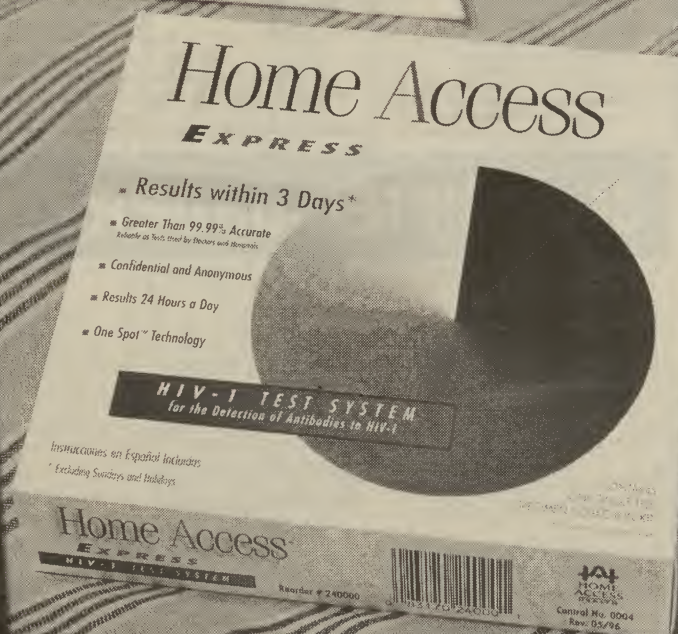
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Author bell hooks pens a memoir in the searing 'Wounds of Passion'; Kenny Fries' latest effort cashes in on celebrity.

page 43

Paula West has all the right stuff in stellar gig at the Plush Room.

page 34



Gregory Wallace is the show in 'Insurrection: Holding History.'

page 36



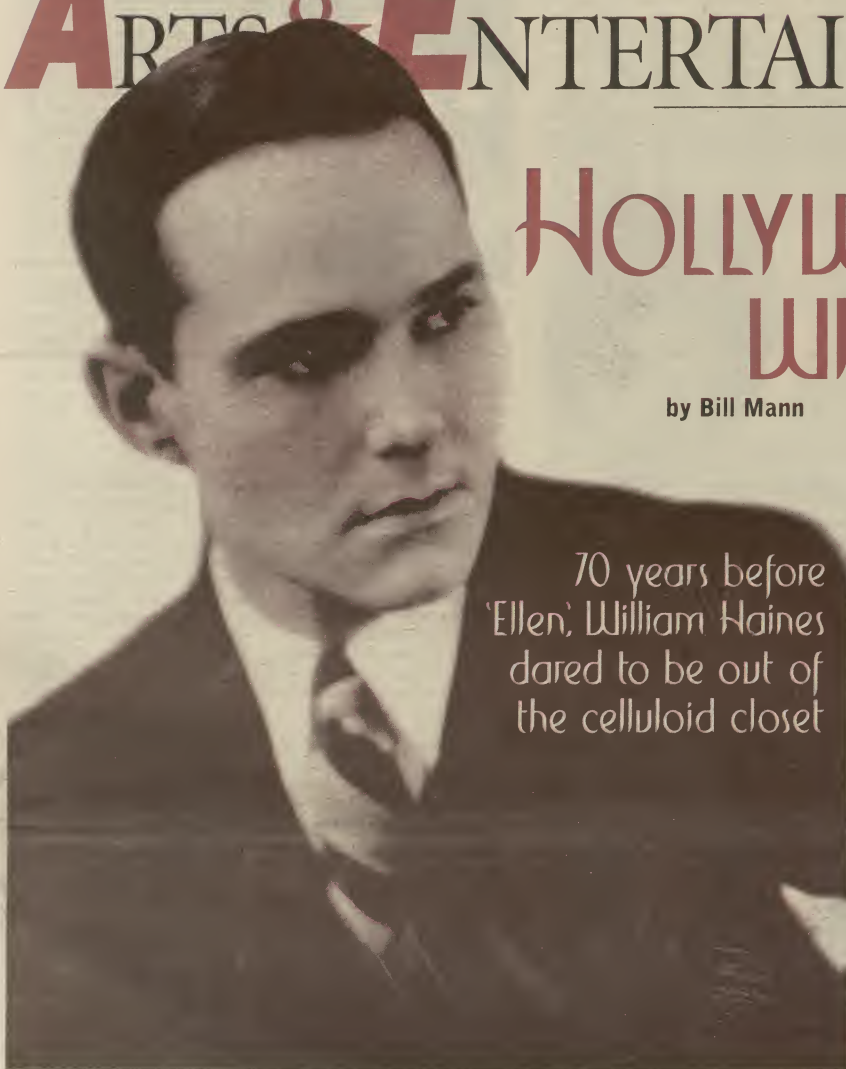
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 4 • 22 January 1998

HOLLYWOOD WISECRACKER

by Bill Mann



70 years before 'Ellen,' William Haines dared to be out of the celluloid closet

So maybe the idea of "openly gay" hadn't yet been invented. That didn't stop William Haines from being out.

Hollywood's number one box-office star of 1930 was a handsome, wisecracking matinee idol, the kind who teased the girls rather than seduced them. Offscreen, he lived openly with his male lover, and coyly told the press he didn't have time to get married because he was too busy buying antiques. It was a "wink, wink" attitude, and the fan magazines — so different back then — went right along with the game.

In those boisterous early days of the movies, when pictures were just learning how to talk, this was precisely the way William Haines lived his life. The word most used to describe him in the press was "wisecracker," which became code for "queer." In 1926, a reporter observed he had a "daring, ever-alert wit that shoots with the rapacity of a machine gun and the cool thrust of a rapier." With such a reputation, he could get away with comments that might otherwise have been considered shocking. In a 1929 autobiographical essay he wrote for *Photoplay*, Haines revealed, among other things, that he used to steal and wear men's underwear from a nearby military academy, and was once discovered dressed in his (female) teacher's clothing. The eager public read it all and laughed.

Haines disarmed those who might shake their fingers at him with a witty retort or put-down. When Elinor Glyn, the pretentious author of *Six Weeks*, leveled her assessment that Haines did not have "It," Haines, ever the

page 40 ▶

DEFYING GRAVITY

Elizabeth Streb's high thrills dance redefines artistic movement

by Robert Johnson

Two seconds and counting. One second. Lift off! As anti-gravity specialist Elizabeth Streb pulls open the doors of New York's downtown eatery The Noho Star, we have ignition.

Streb, a 47-year-old lesbian dancemaker, has come to discuss the works that her company, Ringside, will present in a major Bay Area debut at Zellerbach Auditorium in Berkeley, January 30 and 31. The warmth in her brown eyes and an impish, pointed chin betray her outrageousness as she describes the ongoing quarrel between herself and Sir Isaac Newton, the 17th-century mathematician who formulated the Law of Gravity.

Science fascinates Streb, especially its relation to the physical world. She has studied privately with the physicist Michio Kaku, and because of her yearning to fly, directors at NASA invited her to speak at the 12th annual Man in Space Symposium last summer. Hobnobbing with the astronauts, she begged for a ride on the KC-135 jet aircraft, a training vehicle affectionately known as "the vomit comet," but her request was denied for reasons of national security. Like an astronaut, Streb is an adventurer, boldly exploring beyond the known horizons of choreography. She is also a born rebel. In a Streb-ordered universe, Sir Isaac's famous apple would have

page 50 ▶



SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

by Daniel Mangin, with Dave the Saxman, Señor Sexbeat, and Drummerboy

R.E.M.'s Michael Stipe has become quite the real-estate mogul in Athens, Georgia, buying up houses in the old part of town and restoring them. Good thing he's out (isn't he?) — few activities are more homo-suspicious than gentrification.

It's an unspoken Athens rule, strictly adhered to, that when Stipe's in public he's not to be bothered, so Out There exercised due restraint the night he dined with a gaggle of young fellas at an Indian restaurant and the morning he spent sipping Athens Mimosas — orange juice and Rolling Rock beer (a combo even more horrible than it sounds) — at a vegetarian cafe with supermodel Helena Christensen. We did, however, get close enough to see that though she wore no makeup, Stipe sported lovely azure mascara that made his baby blues seem even bigger and bluer.

Sing it loud, sing it queer

Well, maybe Stipe isn't out after all. His name doesn't appear among the names of the 72 artists nominated for the Gay/Lesbian American Music Awards, a.k.a. the Glammies, though the Indigo Girls, k.d. lang, Me'Shell Ndegéocello, RuPaul, Erasure, and other high-profile solo performers and groups did get nods. The first three are up for Album of the Year, along with Catie Curtis and

the *Murmurs*. RuPaul will receive the Outmusic Award for "his embodiment of courage and truthful expression" (and you thought drag was about deception).

What precisely does a GLAMA do for an artist's career? "Well, let's just say it's not quite like winning an Oscar," said one producer/performer who won last year: "We might have sold 10 CDs because of it." On the other hand,

last year's winner of the award for debut artist, David Clement, is reportedly on the brink of signing with a major label. First single: his ode to Jeff Stryker. The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, one of the few locally based nomi-

nees, is in competition for best choral group for its song "Never End" (from the *Naked Man* CD).

Headly debate

How's this for a linguistic cat-fight? Two local club promoters are haggling over what the word "pussy" connotes. Promoter A (clue: erogenous zone) has a no-compete clause in the contract for her lesbian get-together at a certain bar (opposite of Begin-Down), so she's attempting to block Promoters B (clue: Tidy Cat) from starting a new party night there because it has "pussy" in the title. Promoter A apparently contends that any club with pussy in its name is *ipso facto* lesbian, even though all the previous clubs of Promoters B have been mixed — gay, lesbian, and even straight. "Fags have pussies, too," declares the boy half of Promot-

ers B (who, we're told, should know). Not to mention straight women. RRrrrrrrrr.

Ahead of her time

What a difference a half decade makes. In 1991, the *National Enquirer* had a juicy report about "a gay furor" (as opposed to the "gay fuhrer, Tom Ammiano ... just kidding, Tommy) that had broken out in Tinseltown. Seems that Kristy McNichol had "openly defied her producer" by appearing on the set of *Empty Nest* and in public with a "pretty blonde actress." Shocking.



Kristy McNichol

In those pre-Ellen DeGeneres/Anne Heche days, instead of trying to make ratings hay and book the galpals a date on *Oprah*, NBC attempted to make Kristy more feminine" on the show, though a network insider reported that — as so often happens in real life (just ask Jenni Olson) — "nothing works." No such makeover was tried on Ellen,

and Heche doesn't require one — she's "proven" herself femininely heterosexuality in *The Devil's Own* and the amusing *Wag the Dog*.



Rupert Everett

Rupert \$ee\$ the light

A lot has changed since 1991. Just ask Rupert Everett, whose manager canceled the actor's interview with the *B.A.R.* even though the local publicist for *The Comfort of Strangers*, the nefarious Jeff Diamond, had faxed us a jolly note saying that Everett (who'd crept slightly out of the closet in Britain the previous year) would be happy to speak with us "about anything short of penetration." The manager was afraid his client's options would be limited in the U.S. if audiences here knew his sexual orientation. Flash forward a few years and Miss Everett has turned her "bent" into a cottage industry promoting films like *My Best Friend's Wedding*. Oh well, better late than never. (Just ask Ellen.)

Luscious Christian

Director Brian Sloan's *I Think I Do* was one of the crowd-pleasers at the 1997 SF gay film fest, but he wasn't satisfied with it, so he recut the film, which opens here in late March. The flick still has some pacing problems, but it does have some snappy dialogue ("I told you my real age because I thought you really cared about me"). Its other endearing elements include the intensity that luscious Christian Maelen displays opposite the ever-maniac Alexis Arquette, who's chasing Maelen's is-he-or-isn't-he character mightily as the film begins. This led us to wonder whether something had been going on between the two off screen — until

we found out that it was probably more about training: Maelen has been studying at the Actors Studio the past six years (Arquette hones his craft at Drag Queens "R" Us).

Coming soon ...

As for the 1998 gay fest, among the films that likely will screen at the event is director Tommy O'Haver's *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss*, a romantic comedy about a photographer who falls in love with his is-he-or-isn't-he model. (Do gay U.S. filmmakers besides Todd Haynes and Tom Kalin make anything but is-he-or-isn't-he romantic comedies anymore?) Paul Bartel has a groovy cameo in the Cinemascope flick, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival this week.

Frameline programmers Jennifer Morris and Michael Lumpkin are at Sundance hoping to snag several other films, including *High Art*, an ambisexual drama about angst-ridden 20-year-olds. No, it's not directed by Gregg Araki — Lisa Cholodenko helmed the pic — but it does have a tantalizingly incongruous cast that includes Ally Sheedy and Tammy Grimes.

One film Frameline has confirmed for June is *East Palace*, *West Palace*, a well-made and controversial film that likely won't screen in China, where it was made. Director Zhang Yuan, who says he's never heard of Jean Genet (though we're not sure he hasn't experienced Genet life via Todd Haynes), sustains for about an hour a deliciously erotic tension between a park policeman and the gay guy he arrests for soliciting sex in a public toilet.

No votes yet for 'Mayor'

A film you won't be seeing at the gay fest is *The Mayor of Castro Street*, about which its potential director, Gus Van Sant, was recently heard to say, "Every time I'm hot, the idea for doing the movie isn't, and every time the movie's hot, I'm not." Initially a big-screen project at Warner Bros., the film version of the Randy Schilt's book was kicking around HBO for a while, but if Van Sant's *Good Will Hunting* does well enough, perhaps *Mayor* will resurface as a theatrical movie. We're told that before Robert Downey Jr.'s drug arrests, Van Sant had been considering him for the role of Harvey Milk, a not-bad choice.

page 32 ►

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Betting the farm

Ralph Fiennes goes down under for Gillian Armstrong

by Robert Julian

Oscar and Lucinda, Ralph Fiennes' follow-up to *The English Patient*, is the kind of film many critics will love. Cinematographer Geoffrey Simpson provides a glorious vision of Australia and the English countryside; Janet Patterson brings elegance and restraint to her 19th-century costume designs; and director Gillian Armstrong (*My Brilliant Career*, *Little Women*) gets wonderful performances from her actors. Yet in spite of its many strengths, *Oscar and Lucinda* is a film that never fully engages the viewer's mind or emotions. It plods prettily along, then it stops.

Lucinda (Cate Blanchett) and Oscar (Ralph Fiennes), both rather queer ducks, grow up worlds apart. Oscar is an only child born into a rigorously conservative religious community in rural England. Betraying his father, he joins the Anglican church and grows up to be a missionary in Australia. Lucinda, also an only child, grows up on an Australian farm, inherits a small fortune from her parents, and goes off to Sydney, where she becomes a pioneering female industrialist when she purchases a glass factory. Returning by ship from London to Sydney, Lucinda meets Oscar and these two misfits discover their great common bond: compulsive

gambling. This shared addiction draws the star-crossed lovers together and, indirectly, becomes their undoing.

Laura Jones' adaptation of Peter Carey's novel spends too much time documenting the personal quirks of the leading characters. In Jones' script, the first half of the 130-minute film is devoted to the separate childhoods of the leading characters. Awash in personal idiosyncrasies, the audience does not have the opportunity to bond with the couple because they do not get together until almost mid-picture. And once they do meet, Jones and director Anderson fail to create the kind of dramatic tension that holds the viewer's interest. You won't hate *Oscar and Lucinda*, but you won't like them much either; in fact, you probably won't feel anything at all.

Empathy problems also arise from the gambling addiction at the core of their alliance. This particular neurosis is not known for bringing great success to cinematic or literary endeavors. It isn't interesting to watch, and since an addiction to gambling cannot be attributed to an addictive substance, many people conclude that compulsive gamblers are simply nuts. And Oscar and Lucinda are nuts, in a rather sweet way. Some of the nutsiness is expressed by their quirky grooming, but Oscar never looks as shabby as the film's dialogue



Cate Blanchett and Ralph Fiennes in *Oscar and Lucinda*.

implies he ought to — he just looks *costumed*. And Ralph Fiennes' dyed red hair, rouged cheeks, and painted lips — especially in the beginning of the film — recall the young Quentin Crisp. Though attention-getting, the look is totally inconsistent with that of a conservative missionary from rural England.

Gillian Armstrong always brings great integrity to her work, and *Oscar and Lucinda* is no exception. She surrounds her actors with wonderful recreations of period locales and strives for authenticity. But her latest effort is fatally flawed by a series of miscalculations. Ralph Fiennes and Cate Blanchett, despite their fine

acting, cannot compensate for the film's meandering plot and sluggish pace. Even the *Masterpiece Theatre* crowd may find this film will try their patience. ▼

Oscar and Lucinda opens January 23 at the Embarcadero Cinema.

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Rebel with a cause

Peggy Shaw's 'Menopausal Gentleman'

by Heidi Beeler

Every couple of years or so, a lesbian comes to town with a show so witty and wise you want to make it required viewing for the general public. *Menopausal Gentleman*, the one-woman show written by and starring Obie award-winner Peggy Shaw, is one of those shows. Playing at Josie's

this month, the production weaves a smart script, a confident actor, punchy one-liners, cross dress, lip-synch, and some great blues music into a witty and poetic reflection on aging and rebellion.

Aging and rebellion are two concepts not often juxtaposed, and raging against age is just one form of rebellion this female gentleman explores. "There's a beast inside me," Shaw's character tells

the audience as she paces the stage and talks about wrestling with hot flashes, sweats, and sexual desire. "They say women get to be more like men as they get closer to menopause — they grow beards, dry out," Shaw tells us. "I guess that's some people's definition of a man — a hairy, dried-out woman."

Despite the title, *Menopausal Gentleman* isn't just about menopause. Shaw uses this mid-life, biological condition as a lens through which we perceive her psyche as it confronts issues around menopause, for instance, the awareness that one is aging and the concomitant sense of "Is that all there is?"

The show is directed by Rebecca Taichman (who also collaborated on the writing), whose staging and musical devices are compelling and wonderfully complement the script. ▼

Menopausal Gentleman runs through January 24 at Josie's, 3583 16th St. Call 861-7933 for tickets and information.



Peggy Shaw wrote and stars in *The Menopausal Gentleman*.

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Miscellany

by Deborah Peifer

A Different Light Bookstore will hold its fifth annual Bay Area Readers and Writers queer literary conference April 3-5 at MCC Church in the Castro. I recently spoke with Tommi Avicoli Mecca, one of the conference organizers, about the event, which, as in the past, will include panel discussions, readings, and workshops. He assured me that this is the time to contact him with proposals for panels and suggestions for speakers. For more information, contact Tommi at A Different Light (431-0891), or on-line at adl@adlbooks.com

If you missed *Sunnybrook: A True Story with Lies* (Press Gang, \$15.95), Persimmon Blackbridge's extraordinary illustrated novel about disability and institutionalization, be of good cheer. It's now available in paperback. Blackbridge doesn't omit the darkness of life in an institution, but she does get honest laughs at the continuing absurdity of a former mental patient working on the other side of the locked doors. Her effective use of marginalia is particularly fine, and her comments are astute, self-deprecating, and poignant. The writing is exceptional, capturing her characters at moments of greatest certainty and deepest vulnerability. You may always have wondered about life in a locked facility. After *Sunnybrook*, you'll know. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries, or information of a literary nature to share with readers, contact dpeifer@delphi.com, or send via snail mail to the B.A.R.

Out There

◀ page 30

Sad, crazy Ray

Whilst surfing the 'Net one night in search of wholesome diversions (honestly, Mr. Bill), we came across a most unusual Web site (www.nr.infi.net/~riddle/bourbon.html) devoted to the "sad and crazy life" of one **Ray Bourbon**, a drag-queen extraordinaire whose multifaceted existence apparently included small roles in *Rudolph Valentino* pictures, a part in *Mae West's* Broadway hit *Catherine Was Great*, a fake sex-change announcement (to publicize one of Bourbon's many song-and-comedy albums), and a murder rap (he died in prison for a killing he said he didn't commit). Quite a character.

If you've got the right audio program on your computer, you can listen to a hilarious account of a 1920s gay wedding in Chicago that got busted by the police — in something of a double pun, a few of the queens hid in the pipes of a pipe organ and had to be massaged out of them.

Musty must-see

Speaking of old queens and actresses old queens love, **Tommy Tune** and **Sandy Duncan** just finished a six-week workshop production of *Easter Parade* in Australia. Pity we couldn't make it — if that wasn't the mustiest must-see since *Liza* (the one with a "Z") took over for Julie (the one who can't hit a high "A" anymore) in *Victor/Victoria*, we surely don't know what would be.

Well, what do we know? After typing these words, we called Tommy's very personable book publicist, who says the show generated such interest, T&D are planning to mount a full-scale production. And if it's a hit Down Under, they'll drag the thing here. Australia, you hold the fate of the theatuh in your hands. ▼

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FILM

Feast for the eyes

A week of classic cinema at the Castro

by Victoria A. Brownworth

A handful of some of the best films ever made are scheduled to play the Castro this week as part of the National Film Registry Tour, so clear your schedules for a cinematic binge.

I first saw Roman Polanski's film *Chinatown* as a teenager when it was a new release in one of those grand old theatres that have now been mangled into multiplexes. As the curtains closed over the screen, I turned to my friend and announced, "If Polanski never makes another film, it won't matter. This is perfect."

Unfortunately, that was too true a pronouncement on Polanski's career. Yet despite the grandiosity of my unschooled teenaged eye, I still find *China-*

tunes, sets, vintage cars, the hauntingly unforgettable score—even the film's credits—are all breathtaking. And the final scene (which is edited in both video and TV versions of the film) remains one of the most shocking in film history. This film noir of murder, corruption, sex, politics, money, and racism is as remarkable now as it was in 1974. Don't miss the opportunity to see it on the big screen.

Speaking of Garbo, she was never more delightful than in Ernst Lubitsch's witty and urbane comedy of culture clash, *Ninotchka* (1939). See it for the hats, of course, the terrific performances by Garbo and Melvyn Douglas, and Billy Wilder's impossibly sharp dialogue. The latter will make you wonder whatever happened to real comedy.

some of the most defining scenes in modern cinema since Eisenstein's baby carriage in *Potemkin* and Welles' sled in *Citizen Kane*. One cannot pretend to know film without seeing these movies.

Meshes of the Afternoon (1943) remains blessedly out of reach of mass media. Maya Deren's (she directs and stars) haunting, disturbing, and graceful experimental film makes clear her influence as founder of American avant-garde cinema, and how sad her early death was for film history. A short but highly memorable film with a wealth of deeply evocative images, *Meshes* stays with you. One of the best experimental shorts ever made.

New York stories

On the Waterfront (1954) and *Raging Bull* (1980) have more than a cache of Academy Awards in common. They are both beautifully executed and wonderfully crafted films of the American dream gone terribly wrong. Elia Kazan's *Waterfront* depicts union corruption with a gritty, neo-realist style. The entire cast is superb; Eva Marie Saint is tough but fragile, and Marlon Brando is at the height of his powers. He won the Best Actor Oscar; Saint, Best Supporting Actress; the film also took Best Picture, Director, Story, Screenplay, Score, and Set Design.

Raging Bull is one of Martin Scorsese's best films. It is cinemat-

page 41 ►

Faye and Jack in *Chinatown*.

town a brilliant, perfect film in which every element works. Faye Dunaway as the elusive Mrs. Evelyn Mulwray is at her most fragile and exotic (no one has worn a hat so well since Garbo); Jack Nicholson, as private eye Jake Gittes, sharp as a tack; John Huston, malevolence incarnate as Mulwray's sadistic father, Noah Cross; and every bit player, including Polanski himself as a small-time hood, equally perfect. This is a film with no downtime, no missed beats.

A moody thriller set in 1930s Los Angeles, *Chinatown* was the original LA *Confidential*. Cos-

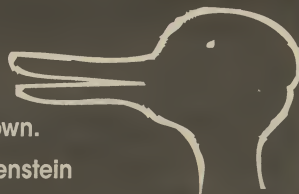
Comedy of an incredibly dark sort is at the black heart of Stanley Kubrick's smartest and most ironic film, *Dr. Strangelove* (1964). There is no more definitive film of the '60s Cold War culture than this. Peter Sellers is unsurpassed in multiple roles. Conversely, Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968), with its lush score and powerful special effects, makes clear why people dropped acid in the '60s and why you don't want to do a tour on Mir today or get too engaged with your PC at home. *2001* was *The X-Files* before its creators were born. These two films of Kubrick's contain

George C. Scott and Peter Sellers in *Dr. Strangelove*.

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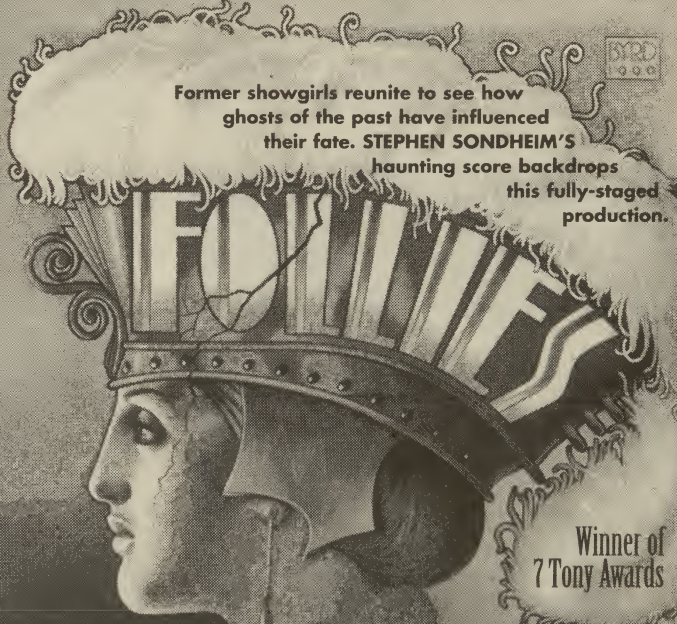
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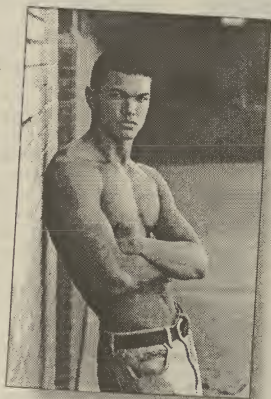
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THEATRE

Obstacle course

Paula Vogel's 'How I Learned to Drive'

by Richard Dodds

There is a big difference between a confused play and a confusing play. Paula Vogel's *How I Learned to Drive*, currently up at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, definitely falls in the latter category. There is growth, Vogel seems to be saying, in unlearning answers that once seemed so easy.

While pedophilia is the buzzword subject of the play, this isn't move-of-the-week fare. Vogel, who created a whimsical allegory about AIDS in *The Baltimore Waltz*, carefully takes the audience to a place where opinions are usually hardened and then chips away at them with the ambiguities born of her very specific characters. It's an intriguing 90-minute journey, one that director Molly D. Smith and the cast negotiate with assurance and increasing intensity.

The play begins in 1969 in suburban Maryland as a 17-year-old girl is getting a driving lesson from an uncle by marriage. Within minutes, Li'l Bit and her Uncle Peck are on what is obviously a familiar course. Over her mild protests, he takes advantage of an opportunity to hold her breasts. That this scene is almost sweet may be more disturbing than the clinical facts of sexual abuse.

How I Learned to Drive is told in flashbacks, scenes that spring from the memory of Li'l Bit, who narrates the play as a woman in her 30s. We see how Uncle Peck provides the girl with a sensitive



Paul Vincent O'Connor and Cindy Basco in *How I Learned to Drive*.

ear that is missing from her home life, and that he always lets her set the limits of their intimacy. We also come to realize that there is long-term damage done to both parties. Yet, as Li'l Bit looks back, she can't help but find a smile for her uncle. Ironically, it seems the more we see the less we really know about these people.

As Li'l Bit and Uncle Peck, Cindy Basco and Paul Vincent O'Connor deliver moving, nuanced performances. Denise

Balthrop, Tina Jones, and Rod Gnapp play all the other characters, and are especially winning in the scenes as Li'l Bit's comically unnerving family. They all contribute in limning the uncertain terrain of Vogel's play. ▼

How I Learned to Drive runs through February 27 at Berkeley Repertory Theatre. For more information, call (510) 845-4700.

Down-home diva

Paula West at the Plush Room

by Jim Van Buskirk

Paula West's opening night at the Plush Room on a recent Wednesday evening may not have been sold out, but the room was abuzz with anticipation. Weslia Whitfield and her husband/accompanist Mike Greensill were there, as were *Examiner* jazz columnist Phil Elwood, and sheet music maven Bob Grimes, in whose honor Paula and Weslia performed last month. Traci Walker, who has been booking and managing the room for the last decade (and who is, unfortunately, leaving at the end of the month), was busy working the cozy club, said to be one of the best cabaret venues in the country.

After a well-executed instrumental version of "Nature Boy" by pianist Ken Muir and bassist Al Obidinski, Paula set the tone for the evening with "The Best is Yet to Come." How right she was: Paula just keeps getting better and better.

Though she looked regal in a dark velvet gown and shawl, Paula was hardly intimidating. She even began her set with a joke about serving coffee, an "inside" comment about her waitressing day job. She continually maintained this careful balance between diva and down-home gal. Though she initially seemed a little uncomfortable, Paula quickly warmed up, and by the time she put aside



Paula West

her unnecessary shawl, she was able to use her arms to full dramatic effect.

Her mellow voice, smoky and sonorous, is like chocolate and honey mixed with a bit of chicory. Her control, timing, and love of music are palpable. Though she makes it all look easy, it's apparent the lady has been hard at work. Paula's generous set included lots of new material, including obscure gems like "Massachusetts," "Perhaps, Perhaps, Perhaps," and "Restless," along with more familiar numbers, like Cole Porter's "The Laziest Gal in Town," "The Lorelei," and "I'm a Fool to Want You."

Acknowledging such influences as Doris Day and Frank

Sinatra, it's obvious that Paula also listens to Peggy Lee, Pearl Bailey, and Ella Fitzgerald. While the singer has obviously learned a lot from these masters, she makes each song her own. Ken Muir's deceptively simple arrangements lend sturdy support.

Charming and unassuming, Paula is able to effectively express both the sincerity and cynicism that characterize much of her repertoire. In her brief introduction to Irving Berlin's "Supper Time," originally performed by Ethel Waters, Paula explained why that "man o' mine ain't comin' home no more" — he has just been lynched. It wouldn't hurt a bit if Paula could weave even more of this musical history into her otherwise sparse patter.

As Paula coyly mentioned, her renditions of "Always True to You in My Fashion," "Peel Me A Grape," "You'll See," and "Comes Love" are captured on *Temptation*, her exquisitely produced 1995 CD.

Paula West is a disarming combination of naive ingenue and sexy sophisticate. Utterly bewitching, the singer casts a spell that even she seems not to be fully aware of. You owe it to yourself not to miss this local treasure. ▼

Paula West performs Wednesdays and Saturdays through January 31 at the Plush Room. Call 885-2800 for tickets and information.

THEATRE

Makin' whoopee

Suede, Karen Mason, Brigitte Schwarz and plenty of work in progress

by Deborah Peifer

Greg Sarris is a novelist and playwright, a professor of English at UCLA, as well as a producer and writer for a new series on HBO. He was attempting to do all of these jobs simultaneously when I called him last week to find out about his newest Bay Area project, an appearance at Intersection for the Arts in conjunction with the world-premiere of *Joy Ride*, a story of identity, bloodlines, and lifelines taken from his novel *Grand Avenue*. The work is a co-presentation by campo santo and Word for Word.

"I'm on deadline," he gasped when I asked for a few minutes of his time. "[I'm] finishing an epic novel that is due at the publisher on January 31. And I've been commissioned to write a play by the Mark Taper Forum, and then there's my teaching and other writing and this HBO thing. You know how professors are — we love to talk."

I wonder aloud about the connection between the performance of his novel and the oral tradition. "I was not the kind of kid that lots of writers are," said Sarris. "I wasn't an incessant reader, you know, hiding under the blanket with a flashlight to read into the night. But I listened to stories all the time, and I pictured them as I listened. My first connection with Word for Word was when I got a release in the mail for one of my stories, 'Slaughterhouse.' I was so busy I didn't really read the release. I thought it was a request to publish the story in an anthology. I was shocked when I was invited to the performance months later, but when I saw it — it was wonderful! I was so pleased with Word for Word."

Sarris says that after HBO aired three of his stories, he was "swarmed" by American Indians who thanked him for his work. "*Grand Avenue* was seen by 20 million viewers. The medium allows people access who would not otherwise

have experienced the story." Sarris will read from his forthcoming novel, *Watermelon Nights*, at his appearance prior to the premiere of *Joy Ride* on January 31. The show, minus Sarris, runs through March 1 at the Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia Street. Call 626-3311 for tickets.

Works in progress

If you've always loved being the first to see a new performer, you have a chance in the coming weeks at several local venues. Brava! for Women in the Arts will indulge early birds with its Showcase of New Plays. All performances are at the Brava Theatre Center, 2789 24th Street at York, between January 24-26. (Call 647-2822 for reservations.)

The Marsh gets in on the act with sneak previews of its best and brightest works-in-progress, ranging from Janet Thornburg's *The Best is Yet to Be*, a journey to the etheric plane by way of a 24-hour fitness center, to Nena St. Louis' *Schools*, a tale of school desegregation in Kansas City in 1962. Call 826-5750 for schedule information. The Marsh is located at 1062 Valencia near 22nd Street.

Later this month, the Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts (1519 Mission Street) will present the first reading of local playwright Tommi Aviccoli Mecca's new play, *Esther's Boys*. Mecca, an artist-in-residence at the Sims Center, describes the new work as a "memory play that looks at how a group of gay men and a 40-something Jewish woman, Esther, form the kind of family bond that weathers some intense crises in their lives." The readings take place January 30 and February 27. Call 552-6031 or 554-0402 for information.

Musical notes

Can you think of a more glorious name for a singer than Suede? This unique artist will perform her special blend of pop, jazz, and blues at Josie's January

28-31. On the 30th, she'll also take part in Josie's "Late Night Live," a live discussion/performance event that will include observations on road rage (and, yes, Muni counts), hosted by Geraldine Barr and Brigitte Schwarz. Dan Rothenberg and our own Mr. Marcus complete the panel. Call 861-7933 for information.



Karen Mason

Karen Mason, that glorious singer, has just released a new CD, *Better Days*. Mason will perform selections from the CD on January 31 at the Osher Marin JCC (200 N. San Pedro Road in San Rafael; 8 p.m.), and February 1 at the Cowell Theatre (Fort Mason; 5 p.m.). Call 479-2000 for tickets and information.

Christopher Copeland presents *A Hatful of Stars*, a dinner/show cabaret review at the Coconut Grove Dinner Club on January 30. The program will feature six musically diverse singers, including Zorina London, who sings forgotten standards of the '20s and '30s; Kathleen Myers Thomas, who performs the blues; and Jana Keeler, who revels in dramatic standards. Call 776-1616 for reservations. The club is at 1415 Van Ness Avenue. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries, or information of a performative nature to share with readers, contact dpeifer@delphi.com, or send via snail mail to the B.A.R.



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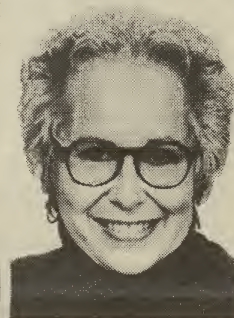
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by Gregg Shapiro

Heaven, by Jai (RCA)

With a voice and range to put George Michael to shame, musical newcomer Jai is a force to be reckoned with. *Heaven*, his debut disc, is a stunning achievement. From the two versions of "I Believe" (one fully orchestrated, one acoustic) that bracket the disc to the original material in-between, the music-making never fails to impress. This is quite simply one of the best CD releases from a new male performer in quite some time. Especially good are "I Need Love," "Open," "Let Me In," and the title track. Jai, who is better known to family and friends as Jason Rowe, co-wrote ten of the disc's dozen tracks. He also has exquisite taste when it comes to choosing cover tunes. His flawless renditions of "Cry Me A River" and J.J. Cale's "Magnolia" reward repeated listening. ▼



Tony Duran

Hard sell

Well-acted 'Insurrection' doesn't always illuminate

by Richard Dodds

A note in the program for *Insurrection: Holding History* from its author and director gives the audience "permission" to laugh. Laughter is a response that doesn't usually require a license, but A.C.T.'s *Insurrection* is looking for laughs in historically unhappy places.

But Robert O'Hara's play is not just about history, it's about burlesquing it. In the work, the days leading up to Nat Turner's 1831 slave rebellion, in which hundreds

interest for two intermissionless hours are not consistently present.

The play has a promising premise. Ron, a button-down graduate student who is researching the Nat Turner slave rebellion for his thesis, finds himself sent back in time to 1831 Virginia. He arrives on a flying bed that looks like a giant slice of toast when it lands, Dorothy-style, on the plantation master. Ron's guide through his adventures is his great-great-grandfather, who is still living at age 189 in the present, and who becomes a young slave again at the plantation

Lots of ideas are trotted out, but the depth and insight needed to sustain interest are missing.

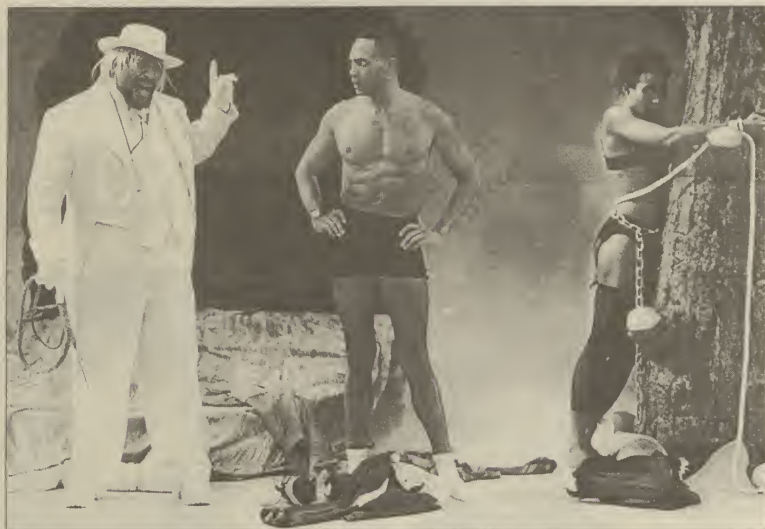
of blacks and whites were slaughtered, are used as a backdrop for a series of parodies ranging from *Gone With the Wind* to *The Wizard of Oz* to the crudest of black sitcoms. But while O'Hara shines a unique light on a dark time in our country's history, it is not always illuminating.

Over the course of the play, the obvious is reemphasized — slavery is hateful, and our elders are the repositories of history. There is a gay element, but it provides only a brief diversion. Lots of imaginative ideas are trotted out, but the depth, drama, and insight needed to sustain an audience's

where Nat Turner is preaching rebellion.

For all the novelties that the playwright and director Charles Randolph-Wright employ, the strongest moments are often the simplest. A discussion between Ron and his young-great-great-grandfather about the value of history provides welcome substance. And the budding gay relationship between Ron and a slave offers hints of a fascinating exchange, though it arrives late in the play and isn't pursued.

Gregory Wallace, warmly remembered by A.C.T. audiences for his performance as the nurse



Steven Anthony Jones, Gregory Wallace, and June A. Lomena in *Insurrection: Holding History*.

Belize in *Angels in America*, plays the less-flashy Ron with stylishly wry restraint. Most of the other performers portray multiple characters, sometimes in a tour-de-force fashion that adds to the crazy-quilt energies of the play. A comically gifted Shona Tucker shuttles between the white plantation mistress and a sassy black woman of the '90s. Marco Barrielli effectively portrays five diverse white characters, and Steven

Anthony Jones is both the impassioned Nat Turner and a cruel, whip-toting plantation overseer. In his single role, Raphael Peacock creates a warm portrait of the slave who has special feelings for Ron.

Insurrection is a brave choice for A.C.T. With only a single prior production, it doesn't arrive with a known track record. And even with the official license to laugh, the play deals with issues that can

be a tough sell. The theater has pulled off a full-bodied production of this stylistically and technically challenging play, but the effort, unfortunately, is too often greater than the reward. ▼

***Insurrection: Holding History* is up at American Conservatory Theatre through February 8. For more information, call 749-2228.**

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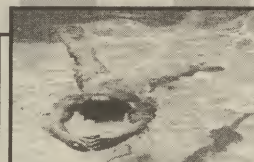


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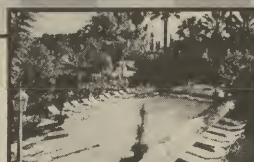
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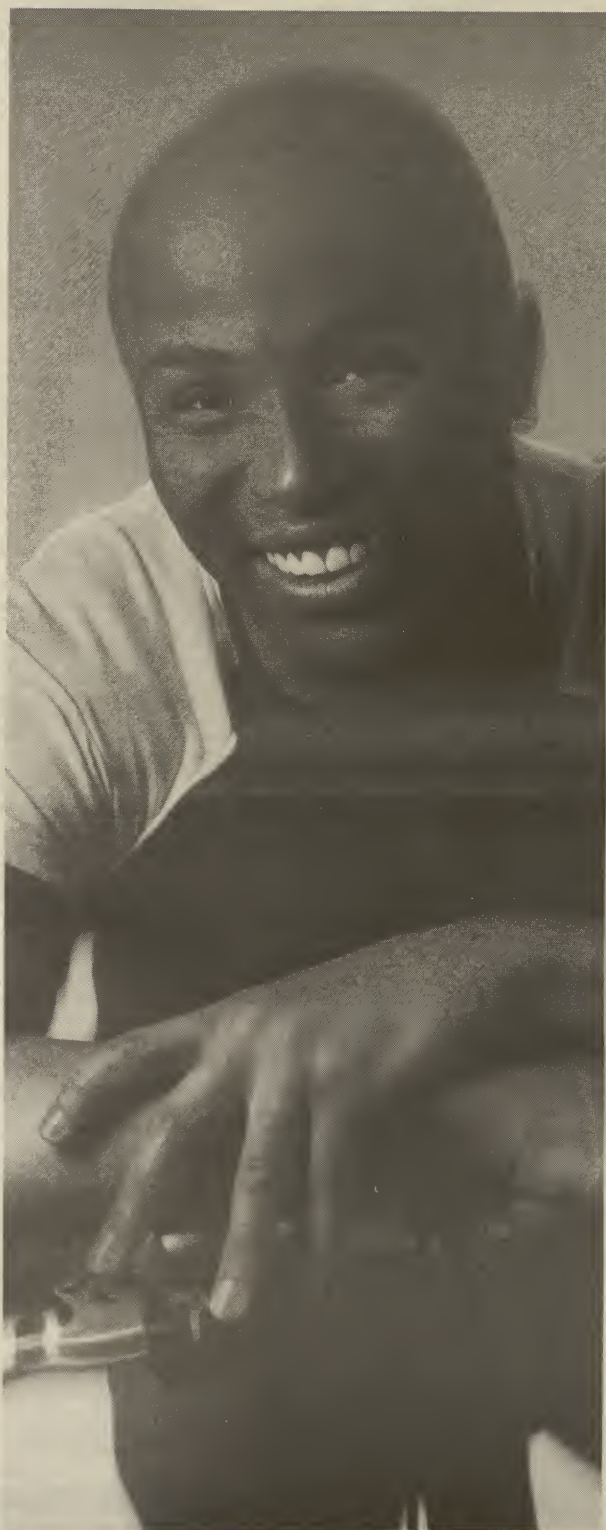
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The cast of *Ex-Lovers*, clockwise from top left: M. Shane, Mark Farrell, Paul Tena, Russell Pachman, and Brad Smith.

Love lies bleeding

Scott O'Hara's 'Ex-Lovers' at Rhino

by Richard Dodds

friend practically drooled at the thought of seeing *Ex-Lovers*, Scott O'Hara's play with music at Theatre Rhinoceros. But whatever your expectations are for this debut theatre piece by the former porn performer and sexual athlete, they are sure to be rattled. There may be a glory hole on stage, but there are no pigeonholes for this play.

O'Hara has created a phantasmagoria that deals with a sprawl of issues, and has populated it with ghosts, a talking dog, a drag queen, Greek gods, an invisible roommate, and several characters of more standard issue. But even these players head off in unexpected directions, as, Pirandello-style, they become actors portraying the characters with their own sets of tangled romantic relationships. Sprinkled throughout are musical numbers by O'Hara and

Tom Phillips that range from bitter ballads to a Gilbert and Sullivan parody.

Indeed, there is so much going on in *Ex-Lovers* that the messages O'Hara wants to convey are hard to grasp. Occasionally, a philosophical kernel can be gleaned.

O'Hara has created a phantasmagoria that deals with a sprawl of issues, and has populated it with ghosts, a talking dog, a drag queen, and a host of others.

For example, when a character laments that it's possible to be too sexy for one's own good, it sounds like O'Hara is musing on his own life as erstwhile sex symbol. O'Hara's experiences as a free-wheeling sexual adventurer obvi-

ously have the stuff of drama (and comedy), but he doesn't always seem able to communicate it.

The central character is Leuko, a stripper at a porn theater whose off-stage life is as sexually charged as the one onstage. As the play begins, the unfaithful Leuko is in a

bickering relationship with his sullen boyfriend Plakia, but there are also past lovers with whom to contend, among them a hungry, horny ghost and the aforementioned talking dog, who is quite literally a stud puppy. In the second act, O'Hara relaxes an already loose grip on the narrative as characters stop the show, talk to the audience, and generally deconstruct the drama.

Director Russell Blackwood has managed to get all this up and running efficiently. Still, Bradley Merle Smith, as Leuko, could stand to turn down his performance by several notches; he practically shouts his lines with the aggressive gaiety of Richard Simmons. Paul Tena connects appealingly with his singing drag queen character, less so with a leather-man character. Russell Pachman is delightful as the doggie man, while Mark Farrell brings both seriousness and sweet voice to the role of Plakia.

The rest of the cast ranges from competent to adequate. Phil Dunn periodically pops up in the confusing role of Leuko's invisible roommate. M. Shane is the cadaverous but lively late ex-lover, and Yawar Charlie plays an ancient Greek who somehow time travels to become the dead man's new lover. Craig Souza is Leuko's workaholic ex-lover, and Cec Levinson plays a largely extraneous old matchmaker. Len Moors is the Mr. Right who finally winds up with Leuko.

With *Ex-Lovers*, O'Hara seems to be saying that life can sometimes be wonderful, and sometimes a bittersweet mess. Yes, real life is messy, and that's why we look to theater to help sort things out. O'Hara may like the mess, but it would be more effective to suggest it than duplicate it on stage. ▼

Ex-Lovers runs through February 14 at Theatre Rhinoceros. For tickets and information, call 861-5079.

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INDICATIONS AND USAGE

ZERIT (stavudine) is indicated for the treatment of HIV-infected patients who have received prolonged prior zidovudine therapy. The duration of clinical benefit from antiretroviral therapy may be limited. Alteration in antiretroviral therapy should be considered if disease progression occurs while receiving ZERIT.

CLINICAL STUDIES

Study A455-019 was a multi-center, randomized, double-blind trial of ZERIT Capsules vs zidovudine for the treatment of HIV-infected adults with CD4 counts of 50 to 500 cells/mm³ who had received at least six months prior zidovudine treatment. ZERIT was administered in dosages of 40 mg BID for patients weighing <60 kg, and 30 mg BID for those weighing ≥60 kg. The zidovudine dosage was 200 mg TID. The study enrolled 822 patients with a median baseline CD4 count of 235 cells/mm³ (range: 10 to 735 cells/mm³), and a median duration of prior zidovudine treatment of 88 weeks (range 11 to 356 weeks). Fourteen percent of subjects had AIDS at baseline. 50% had HIV-related symptoms and 36% were symptomatic.

Table 1 gives the Kaplan-Meier estimates for the time to disease progression.

	First AIDS - Onseting Event or Death ^a	
	ZERIT	zidovudine
6 months	4.4%	5.7%
12 months	10.4%	14.1%
18 months	18.5%	23.3%
24 months	26.9%	31.8%

^a Kaplan-Meier estimates, the overall difference between stavudine and zidovudine was not significant.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

ZERIT is contraindicated in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity to stavudine or to any of the components contained in the formulation.

WARNINGS

The major clinical toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. This complication occurred in 19 and 24 percent of the 11,784 patients with advanced HIV disease who received the two dose levels of stavudine in the Parallel Track Program. In some cases, symptoms have advanced HIV infection in the zidovudine comparative trial, peripheral neuropathy occurred in 13 percent of ZERIT-treated patients as compared to 4 percent of zidovudine-treated patients.

Patients should be monitored for the development of neuropathy that is usually characterized by numbness, tingling, or pain in the feet or hands. Stavudine-related peripheral neuropathy may resolve if therapy is withdrawn promptly. In some cases, symptoms may worsen temporarily following discontinuation of therapy. If symptoms resolve completely, resumption of treatment may be considered at a reduced dose.

Patients with a history of peripheral neuropathy are at increased risk for the development of neuropathy. If stavudine must be administered in this clinical setting, careful monitoring is essential.

PRECAUTIONS

Information for Patients

Patients should be informed that ZERIT is not a cure for HIV infection, and that they may continue to acquire illnesses associated with HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Patients should be advised to remain under the care of a physician when using ZERIT. Patients should be informed that the most common toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. Symptoms of peripheral neuropathy usually include tingling, burning, pain, or numbness in the hands or feet. Patients should be counseled that this toxicity occurs with greater frequency in patients with a history of peripheral neuropathy. They should be advised that these symptoms should be reported to their physicians and that dose changes may be necessary. They should also be cautioned about the use of other medications that may exacerbate peripheral neuropathy.

Carriers of young children receiving ZERIT therapy should be instructed regarding detection and reporting of peripheral neuropathy. Patients should be informed that the long-term effects of ZERIT are unknown at this time. They should be advised that ZERIT therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Patients should be informed that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that HIV-infected mothers not nurse newborn infants to reduce the risk of postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

Laboratory Tests

Mild to moderate increases in AST (SGOT) and ALT (SGPT) occurred commonly in clinical trials; these did not interfere with continued therapy.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility
Long-term carcinogenicity studies of stavudine in animals have not been completed. Stavudine was not mutagenic in the Ames, *E. coli* reverse mutation, or the CHO/KPRT mammalian cell forward gene mutation assays, with and without metabolic activation. Stavudine produced positive results in the *in vitro* human lymphocyte clastogenesis and mouse fibroblast assays, and in the *in vivo* mouse micronucleus test. In the *in vitro* assays, stavudine elevated the frequency of chromosome aberrations in human lymphocytes (concentrations of 25 to 250 µg/mL, without metabolic activation) and increased the frequency of transformed foci in mouse fibroblast cells (concentrations of 25 to 250 µg/mL, with and without metabolic activation).

^a The parallel track program (STUDY A455-000) treated 12,551 HIV-infected patients with CD4 counts <300/mm³ who had failed, were intolerant of, or had contraindications to other therapies.

In the *in vivo* micronucleus assay, stavudine was clastogenic in bone marrow cells following oral stavudine administration to mice at dosages of 600 to 2000 mg/kg/day for 3 days.

No evidence of impaired fertility was seen in rats with exposures (based on C_{max}) up to 216 times that observed following a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day.

Pregnancy

Pregnancy Category C: Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits with exposures (based on C_{max}) up to 389 and 183 times, respectively, of that seen at a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. The incidence in fetuses of a common skeletal variation, unossified or incomplete ossification of sternebra, was increased in rats at 399 times human exposure, while no effect was observed at 216 times the human exposure. A slight post-implantation loss was noted at 216 times the human exposure with no effect noted at approximately 135 times the human exposure. An increase in early rat neonatal mortality (birth to 4 days of age) occurred at 399 times the human exposure, while survival of neonates was unaffected at approximately 135 times the human exposure. A study in rats showed that stavudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta. The concentration in fetal tissue was approximately one-half the concentration in maternal plasma. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, stavudine should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nursing Mothers

Studies in lactating rats demonstrated that stavudine is excreted in milk. Although it is not known whether stavudine is excreted in human milk, there exists the potential for adverse effects from stavudine in nursing infants. Mothers should be instructed to discontinue nursing if they are receiving stavudine. This is consistent with the recommendation by the U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV.

Pediatric Use

Use of stavudine in pediatric patients is supported by evidence from adequate and well-controlled studies of stavudine in adults with additional safety data in 115 pediatric patients and pharmacokinetic data in 25 of these patients.

Stavudine pharmacokinetics have been evaluated in 25 HIV-infected pediatric patients (age range: 3 weeks to 15 years, weight range: 2 to 43 kg) after IV and oral administration of 0.125, 0.5, 1, and 2 mg/kg as single doses and as BID regimens. The mean ± SD absolute bioavailability was 76.9 ± 31.7% (n=20). Peak plasma concentration (C_{max}) and area under the plasma concentration-time curve (AUC) increased in proportion to dose after both single and multiple doses.

Following intravenous infusions (n=21), the mean ± SD volume of distribution was 18.5 ± 9.1 L/m². The distribution of stavudine into cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) was assessed in 8 pediatric patients after 12 weeks of multiple oral dosing. The concentration of stavudine in CSF samples ranged from 0.008 to 0.105 µg/mL at times ranging from 2 to 3 hours post-dose (dose ranging from 0.125 to 1 mg/kg). CSF concentrations ranged from 18% to 128% (mean ± SD of 68 ± 35%) of the concentration in simultaneous plasma samples.

The terminal elimination half-life after oral or intravenous administration of stavudine was approximately one hour. The mean ± SD total body clearance after intravenous infusion was 247 ± 94 mL/min/m². The mean ± SD apparent oral clearance was 333 ± 87 mL/min/m². The percent of dose excreted unchanged in the urine was 34.5% after oral administration.

The clearance of stavudine is related to both body surface area and body weight. When dosing according to body weight, the recommended dosage for pediatric patients weighing less than 30 kg is 2 mg/kg/day in divided doses. Pediatric patients weighing 30 kg or greater should receive the recommended adult dose.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The major clinical toxicity of ZERIT (stavudine) is peripheral neuropathy (see "WARNINGS" section).

Adults: Peripheral neuropathy is dose related (see Table 2). Modest elevation of hepatic transaminases was also observed commonly in controlled trials.

Table 2
Peripheral Neuropathy Leading to Dose Modification

	Study A455-019		Parallel Track Program	
	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=506)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=579)
Peripheral Neuropathy				
Grade 1-2	11	3	20	17
Grade 3-4	2	1	1	2
Total	13	4	24	19

Selected adverse events that occurred in adult patients receiving ZERIT in the Phase 3 controlled comparative trial (Study A455-019) are provided in Table 3.

Table 3
Selected Clinical Adverse Events in the Phase 3 Controlled Clinical Trials^a

Adverse Events	Study A455-019 ^b	
	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)
Headache	54	49
Chills/Fever	50	51
Diarrhea	50	43
Rash	40	35
Nausea and Vomiting	38	44
Abdominal Pain	34	27
Myalgia	32	35
Arthralgia	29	31
Anorexia	19	22
Allergic Reaction	9	8
Pancreatitis	1	1

^a This event was reported in fewer than 1% of patients.

^b Includes all clinical complaints.

^c Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

Laboratory abnormalities reported in the Phase 3 controlled comparative trial (Study A455-019) are shown in Table 4.

Lab Tests (units)	Study A455-019 ^b	
	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)
AST (SGOT) (<5.0 x ULN ^c)	11	10
ALT (SGPT) (<5.0 x ULN)	13	11
Bilirubin (<5.0 x ULN)	2	2
Anemia (<8.0 g/dL)	-	3
Neutropenia (neutrophils <750/mm ³)	5	9
Thrombocytopenia (platelets <50,000/mm ³)	3	3
Amylase (<1.4 x ULN)	14	13

^a This abnormality was reported in fewer than 1% of patients.

^b Data presented for patients for whom laboratory evaluations

^c Data performed.

^d Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

^e ULN = upper limit of normal.

Pediatric Patients

Adverse reactions and serious laboratory abnormalities in pediatric patients were similar in type and frequency to those seen in adult patients.

OVERDOSEAGE

Experience with adults treated with 12 to 24 times the recommended daily dosage revealed no acute toxicity. Complications of chronic overdose include peripheral neuropathy and hepatic toxicity. It is not known whether stavudine is eliminated by peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis.

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DANCE

Walking the walk

Tread Dance Theater

by Heather Wisner

The difference between good work and great work is the difference between knowing a few things and being able to do something with what you know. The women of Tread Dance Theater, choreographers Carmen Carnes, Chantel Lucier, and Robin Kurland, know plenty. Carnes is a former competitive rhythmic gymnast whose technical repertoire embraces ballet, Persian and Balinese dance. Kurland, a former member of Philadelphia's Group Motion Dance Company, studied with modern innovators Bebe Miller and members of the Paul Taylor Dance Company at Philadelphia's University of the Arts. Lucier, a homegrown talent who has performed with A.C.T., specializes in modern, contact improv, and Suzuki theater technique.

This is an accomplished team, and they make fine use of the dancers who join them for their seven-piece program at ODC Theater. But as any dancer who makes the leap to choreography has discovered, turning one's education into meaningful work is a tricky undertaking. Despite some lingering imagery and hints of choreographic promise, this program suffers from draggy pacing and undeveloped work that suggests an over eagerness on the part of the artists to share everything they know.

The most successful dances are the understated ones. In her solo *Asa Nisi Masa (Anima: the Soul)*, set to Gorecki's Symphony No. 3, Lucier travels meditatively along the diagonal, illuminated by a swath of white light, her elegant *port de bras* carving the space around her. She maintains a gentle, lyrical momentum throughout the piece, moving steadily and deliberately from a dip into flexed-foot arabesque *penchee* to a backward roll up onto the shoulders, her hips swiveling side to side as she bicycles her legs in the air.

Kurland contributes *Unfold*, a spooky, fascinating solo danced rather like a fitful sleepwalker. As shifting patterns of dim light flit across a black curtain, Kurland slowly makes her way around a small box set in the middle of the floor, climbing on top of it and agitatedly jerking herself around at one point, and getting down on her hands and knees to peer inside at the very end. The ensemble piece *Folds of Memory* has the kinetic feel of a subway in motion, and the dancers, dressed in baggy gray trousers and halter tops and assembled against the red brick backstage wall, exude a very urban postmodern cool. This is Kurland's work, and her interest in pedestrian "everyday" movement manifests itself in the uncomfortable shifting of weight from one foot to the other and the nervous gestures of people who can't decide what to do with their hands.

These pieces integrate well, which makes much of the rest of the work on the program seem out of place. Carnes opens Tread's program with *Bali Suite*, a collection of three traditional Balinese dances done in full costume. The execution is adequate, but Balinese cultural dance seems quite out of context on a program of

American modern dance. Carnes' dance eulogy to the late singer Jeff Buckley is reminiscent of rhythmic gymnastics, especially the ending, when Carnes dons gauzy red wings to send Buckley off to his final resting place. And while *Femme Fatalite*, an ensemble piece intended to examine the image of women in the media, is the kind of thing one expects to find on an American modern dance program with an all-woman company, the result is a disappointing, overtly literal exercise in Feminism 101. Spoofing the Spice Girls, as inviting as it seems, is essentially redundant, and quips comparing Britain's export of the hour to a "dumb-chick version of the Village People" don't make it funnier. A send-up of the catwalk, a couple of play-acting dance bits, and an onstage narrator who admits a love-hate relationship with fashion magazines turn *Femme Fatalite* into a victim of cliché. Next time out,



Treadites

Tread might do well to concentrate on work that shows more than it tells. ▼

Tread performs Friday-Saturday, January 23-24 at ODC Performance Gallery

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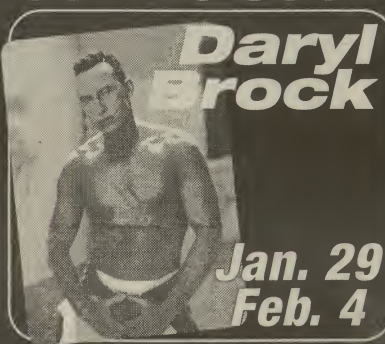
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Wisecracker

◀ Arts cover

gentleman, replied that Miss Glyn certainly did have it. "But, madam," he added, "you left the 'sh' off of it."

William Haines was born in 1900, the son of a Virginia cigar-maker. Chafing against small-town life, he ran off to New York, where he found glamour and excitement in the burgeoning world of Greenwich Village. It was here, as a bonds salesman during the day and avid partygoer by night, that he formed the easy, self-affirming gay identity that remained with him for life. He never struggled with hiding his homosexuality; in the Village, it was a simple fact of life. He formed his campy, ironic sense of humor during these years, when he palled around with chorus girls and drag queens, and played gigolo to a number of wealthy men and women. His friends included the young Jack Benny, George Burns, Orry-Kelly, and Archie Leach, later known as Cary Grant.

Chosen the winner of a "New Faces" contest, he was hustled off to Hollywood, where he played a number of undistinguished parts in his first Goldwyn, and later, MGM pictures. It was 1926's *Brown of Harvard* that made him a star, and created overnight a new screen character — the "wisecracker," the witty, dandified leading man who is all arrogance and pomposity before eating "humble pie" and winning the girl at the fade-out. Haines' characters are informed by the ribald sensibility of the Village, and of 1920s Hollywood.

During the Roaring Twenties, Hollywood was a haven for free-lovers and free-thinkers. Gays and lesbians, living lives of relative openness, were integral parts of a community of people who lived on the edge: political radicals, heterosexuals who cohabited outside marriage, drug- and alcohol-users in a time of Prohibition. Reporters from fan magazines, often guests in Haines' home, had no motive to "out" anyone. Everyone benefited from playing the game, and there was an accepted sense of

private versus public image.

By 1930, after a string of hits with curiously queer titles like *A Man's Man*, *Lovey Mary*, *Navy Blues*, and *A Slave of Fashion*, Haines was named the Number One male box office star in the country. But the political winds were shifting in Hollywood. Sound had added another realistic element to movies that had already become sexier, grittier, and more violent. The Legion of Decency, composed primarily of Catholic priests and laymen, threatened an economic boycott of the industry if Hollywood didn't clean up its act. In response, the film industry adopted the Production Code, an ironclad list of do's and don'ts drawn up by a Catholic priest. Yet such a Draconian measure did even more than restrict onscreen content. Offscreen, stars who did not fit the image of upstanding, stalwart, heterosexual citizens were cast aside. Clara Bow — she of the scandalous nightlife — was one of the first to go. Over at MGM, studio chief Louis B. Mayer viewed William Haines as trouble waiting to happen.

The dramatic change in Hollywood from the early to mid-'30s is seen best when comparing Haines' life and career with that of Cary Grant — a performer with a similar style and equally as queer — just five or six years later. Haines lived openly with his lover, Jimmie Shields, for nearly 50 years. Grant married five times, all to women, despite living for a



William Haines in *A Man's Man*.

his union with starlet Virginia Cherrill. Yet within a year, they had separated, and Grant, depressed and conflicted, attempted suicide. When he recovered, he and Scott resumed cohabitation for a time, until Grant made an-

came progressively more closeted (witness Rock Hudson, a decade after Grant).

At the height of his fame, Haines delighted in innuendo. Once, when a producer asked him to stay late and work on a film, Haines teased that he had to "go to choir practice with Ramon Navarro" — whose own sexual orientation was the whisper of Hollywood. He also quipped that he and Garbo wore the same shoes. Most reporters — at least those "in the know" in Hollywood — got the gist. But as the political pressures changed, Haines' bosses became increasingly concerned.

Throughout 1931 and 1932, a good deal of effort went into changing Haines' image, putting him in many more "manly" parts and sending out blind items to the press about what a "regular feller" he was. But a new breed of macho stars — Clark Gable, Jimmy Cagney — were moving in, and the Depression-weary public, scapegoating the frivolous excess of the Roaring Twenties, turned their back on William Haines. "What kind of guy is he anyway?" wrote one woman to *Movie Mirror*. "All this wisecracking — and still never married."

The press changed, too. A rougher, more sadistic edge emerged, with snide comments about Haines' love of antiques and "precious housekeeping" creeping into the columns. Louis B. Mayer, never fond of Haines or any of his gay employees, may have been looking for a reason to give him the boot. Legend says Haines was caught with a sailor at the YMCA and arrested by police; no records can be found to confirm this. But friends insist the final confrontation with Mayer actually occurred. As screenwriter Anita Loos described it, Mayer issued an ultimatum: "I'm going to give you a choice," Mayer told him. "You're either to give up that boyfriend of yours, or I'll cancel your contract!"

"Without hesitating, Bill opted for love and told L.B. to tear up his contract," Loos wrote.

But trying to find work at another studio when L.B. Mayer had blacklisted you was next to impossible. Haines made a couple of forgettable pictures at a poverty row studio and then was finished. Unlike many of his contemporaries, however, he had an ace in the hole. As interior designer to

his friends — Joan Crawford, Claudette Colbert, Constance Bennett, Carole Lombard, among others, all of whom might have been called "fag hags" in a more modern era — Haines established himself in a new career. Over the next three decades, he became the leading and most influential decorator in Los Angeles.

Yet the fall of Haines' movie career is not just the story of one man. It is the story of the institutionalization of the Hollywood closet. William Haines dared to live a life of authenticity when most gays and lesbians chose paths of smoke and mirrors.

In his new career, Haines didn't have the same pressures to conform. And yet a brush with gay-bashing residents of El Porto Beach, where he had a summer home, led to nasty charges on the front pages of the nation's newspapers in 1936. Charges that Haines' guests — including Jimmie Shields — molested a six-year-old boy were found to be groundless. Research today reveals a pattern of anti-gay accusations against a number of area people, and some evidence even points to a nearby pocket of white supremacists. Haines was the victim of what today would be called a hate crime.

Still, he triumphed over it, as he had the oppression of the studio. Supported by loyal friends like Crawford, Marion Davies, and Jack Warner, he flourished as an interior designer until the early '70s, designing for such socially prominent figures as Betsy Bloomingdale, Ambassador Walter Annenberg, and Nancy Reagan.

That's what ultimately makes Haines' story one of success rather than failure. Despite being blacklisted by Mayer, despite the El Porto scandal, Haines did not retreat into the closet. He and Jimmie lived happily together in Brentwood for nearly 50 years. "Billy and Jimmy are the happiest married couple in Hollywood," Crawford told friends. Certainly the four-times-married star — along with many others — must have been envious. In the early '50s, when Billy and Jimmie celebrated their 25th anniversary, Haines — ever the wisecracker — sent an invitation to none other than L.B. Mayer. At the bottom of the invitation he wrote: "And you said it wouldn't last."

On the day after Christmas, 1973, William Haines died of cancer, just a few days short of his 74th birthday. Jimmie Shields, heartbroken at the death of his spouse of nearly five decades, committed suicide three months later. He left a note that read: "It's no good without Billy."

Yet for all its poignancy, William Haines' story is ultimately one of triumph. Few stars have attempted to be as out as William Haines was in the '20s and '30s. He seems a distinctly modern hero, possessing a queer sensibility and self-confidence not often found in the shadowy world of pre-Stonewall Hollywood, when lovers were kept in separate homes, marriages were arranged, and lies were told again and again.

But one man refused to play the game. William Haines took his losses, but he also ended up ahead. As Anita Loos wrote: "As a love-and-success story, Bill's legend was far more thrilling than any he ever filmed for L.B. Mayer." ▼

William J. Mann is the author of *Wisecracker: The Life and Times of William Haines, Hollywood's First Openly Gay Star*, published this month by Viking.

Once, when he was asked to stay late by a producer, Haines joked that he couldn't because 'he had to go to choir practice.'

short time in the more permissive early '30s with actor Randolph Scott. In the mid-'30s, studio pressure forced Grant and Scott into breaking up, and both hastily married women. Scott's marriage to a Virginia heiress was never more than in name only, but Grant tried to make a go of

other stab at marriage.

After 1933, the closet became the new paradigm for Hollywood stars, a model that has yet to be completely overturned. The irony is that since the time of Haines, stars haven't become progressively more out — Ellen and Anne notwithstanding. Instead, they be-

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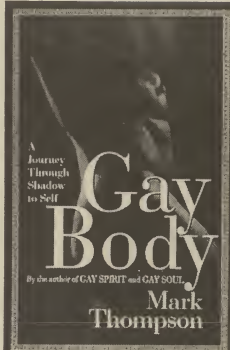
by Jameson Currier

Gay Body: A Journey Through Shadow to Self by Mark Thompson; St. Martin's, \$24.95

Somewhere inside every gay man there's a wounded boy who stopped growing," author Mark Thompson writes in his new book, *Gay Body*. "If ever he did reveal his shining inner self, it was humiliated, mocked, and scorned. And so the boy took whatever of himself he could save and hid it, burying it in that twilight zone between knowing and not knowing."

This hidden, integral part of a gay man's psyche Thompson identifies as the place called "Gay Shadow." By reclaiming this place and creating a passionate and empathetic relationship to it, gay men can begin their personal journey toward self-knowledge. "In cleaning their own spiritual houses," Thompson notes, "gay men need to understand not only the reasons for their shame but where to find it."

Thus the title *Gay Body* may seem a misnomer, for Thompson concentrates more on this spiritual quest than on the biological concerns his epithet suggests. Indeed, Thompson devotes a great deal of attention in these pages to explaining archetypes and how they function in a gay man's life, the roles they assume, and the dangers they hold. Among the archetypes Thompson introduces and explains are the "Wounded Healer," the "Divine Child," the "Trickster," and the "Double."



Thompson uses a mixture of psychology, personal reportage, and autobiography to delineate these roles for readers. Some, such as his exploration into the "Double," which he defines as finding oneself mirrored in a lover, are fascinating. Other accounts stumble. The "Trickster," though a simple concept, seems muddled between stories of drag queens and deconstructing the myth of Narcissus. Thompson also regresses periodically into psycho-babble, and his ideas, while noteworthy, become victim of his own arch prose.

Gay Body, however, is not just psychological discourse; Thompson is at his best when he interweaves memories of his own spiritual journey to adulthood, from growing up in a dysfunctional family in Carmel to his heady participation in San Francisco in the early 1970s. "If my first year in gay mecca showed me anything, it's

next page ►

Castro Theater

◀ page 33

ically exquisite, with a score only an Italian could divine, and a wholly believable supporting cast. Robert DeNiro is incendiary as fighter Jake LaMotta, and won the Best Actor Oscar. *On the Waterfront* and *Raging Bull* are films about failure and loss, grief and redemption, and are as American as New York where both films take place.

The quartet of films on the 28th is so good it's hard to pick one as more essential viewing than another, but *Touch of Evil* (1958), Orson Welles' film of drug corruption south of the border (and his own mesmerizing performance) is a tidy vision of hell. This is first-rate filmmaking on every level, with astonishingly beautiful high-contrast black-and-white cinematography, a brilliant opening sequence, and a lurid story with even more lurid characters. A host of fine performances from Charlton Heston's tough DEA agent to Janet Leigh's not-so-fragile heroine to Marlene Dietrich's washed-up dance hall queen make this a real treat. (There are some interesting queer moments between Leigh and a sadistic bull dyke.)

For demonic portraits on film, it's hard to imagine a more creepy nightmare than Robert Mitchum's preacher in Charles Laughton's *Night of the Hunter* (1955). You will never want to hear whistling on a dark night again after seeing this one, but it



Dietrich in *Touch of Evil*.

will certainly codify all you've ever believed about the relationship between fundamentalism and evil. Scary, with strong (and strange) performances by Shelley Winters and Lillian Gish.

Joseph Cotton in Hitchcock's 1943 *Shadow of a Doubt* isn't quite as terrifying as Mitchum, but he runs a menacing close second. Teresa Wright is the niece who knew too much in this neat tale of serial murder. Films run January 22 through January 28 at the Castro. Call 621-6120 for information. ▼

Victoria A. Brownworth has been a film critic for 20 years. Her most recent book is *Film Fatales: Independent Women Directors*, co-authored with Judith Redding.

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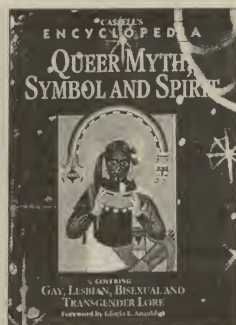
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Queer connections

by Deborah Peifer

Cassell's *Encyclopedia of Queer Myth, Symbol, and Spirit* by Randy P. Conner, David Hatfield Sparks, Mariya Sparks; Cassell, \$24.95

As people who are marginalized by the dominant culture, we queers are constantly having to rediscover or reinvent our history. Fortunately for us, Randy P. Conner, David Hatfield Sparks, and his daughter, Mariya Sparks, have gathered myths and stories and legends from around the world, a cornucopia of tales and symbols that assert our queer presence throughout history. This encyclopedia is a tremendous achievement.



The trio provides an introduction that includes an overview, with cross-references, of the great sources and repositories of myth, the spiritual traditions of both East and West. From the African and African-Diasporic to Buddhism to witchcraft, these essays provide the beginnings for a directed search through the encyclopedia, and are both useful and

inspiring. But you can also leaf through and make your own discoveries.

You may learn, for example, that the use of the rainbow to identify gay people dates back to the Greeks, when it was associated with Hermes, and his beloved, Amphiion. Further, that in the Middle Ages the French believed that "a person might change sex while passing under the rainbow." In the Yoruba religion of West Africa, the rainbow was the symbol of Oshumaré, an androgynous being who served as the bridge linking mortals to the gods. In Brazil, the same Oshumaré is "perceived as a patron of gender variant, transgendered, gay, lesbian, and bisexual persons." All of which information serves to enrich our rainbow flag and to connect us to a larger, ancient world.

I was particularly impressed with the trio's decision to include contemporary symbols, such as Virginia Woolf's Orlando, the fantastic character who is transformed from a man to a woman. Woolf, the writers explain, "both reclaimed the ancient archetype of the androgynous/gynandrous or transgendered goddess and gave birth to a modern mythic figure blending, among other traits, lesbianism, bisexuality, transgenderism, and feminism."

The encyclopedia includes a lengthy bibliography as well as a complete thematic index for those of us Virgo types who have to read every entry on a particular topic. The writing is clear and readable; I can't think of a reference work that I've enjoyed more.

Cassell's *Encyclopedia of Queer Myth, Symbol, and Spirit* reminds us that our queer lives and stories are a part of the larger world. We did not spring up, suddenly, on a New York street in 1969. Randy P. Conner, David Hatfield Sparks, and Mariya Sparks have given us a great gift: our spiritual heritage. ▼

An affair to remember

by Deborah Peifer

Cloud 9 Affair by Katherine E. Kreuter; Rising Tide, \$11.99

I am not as a rule terribly enthralled by novels that include great masses of geographic description, but *Cloud 9 Affair* is a happy exception. Katherine E. Kreuter makes India one of her characters, and the result is fasci-

nating.

Paige Taylor is a private investigator who specializes in exotic locales. When the daughter of a powerful and wealthy man disappears on what seems to be another quest for spiritual enlightenment, or good drugs, Paige is hired to search the Indian subcontinent for the missing woman. But is she missing? Or just traveling? And what is her father's real motivation for the search?

Kreuter creates believably complex situations for her sleuth, and her use of scenery is compelling and appropriate. Interesting characters and a satisfying denouement make *Cloud 9 Affair* an enjoyable read. ▼

Saints and sinners

by Deborah Peifer

The Visitation by Sue Reidy; Simon & Schuster, \$11

I don't know if you have to have been raised Catholic in the '50s and early '60s to get the humor in *The Visitation*. Perhaps not, because Sue Reidy offers enough explanation to make things clear. For this recovering Catholic, however, *The Visitation* was a laugh-out-loud, hysterical reading experience.

Reidy's opening situates her characters and her readers in the glory days of Catholic girlhood. "Other children played 'Mothers and Fathers,' 'Cowboys and Indians,' or 'Cops and Robbers.' Catherine and Theresa Flynn played 'Martyrs and Suffering Virgins.'"

Raised in a painfully devout family, with new babies popping out of their mother, Moira, at an indecent rate (no birth control in Catholic houses), Catherine and Theresa try to make sense of their difficulties with the rules they are forced to obey. Theresa hopes she'll be able to achieve sainthood, but if that doesn't work, she muses: "If I can't become a martyr, I'll become a film star instead." When the Blessed Virgin Mary appears to the girls, preaching a new gospel of equal rights for women and birth control as a positive good in an overpopulated world, the stage is set for personal and family crises that will change not just the Flynn's, but the world.

Reidy paints a vivid portrait of individuals within a family and a culture, and she gives her minor characters a depth that is rare in most fiction. With her major characters, she achieves a reality that is stunning to behold. Catherine, faced with her mother's insistence that she keep herself ever at the ready for the appearance of Mr. Right, wonders what would happen if Mr. Right turned out to be Miss Right? "Miss Right would have a voice the sound of which was like having honey trickle into your ear, thought Catherine. Her skin would smell of almonds and aniseed, roses and geraniums. ... Miss Right would play the piano and sing like an angel. Catherine could imagine herself having fun with a Miss Right for ever."

The Visitation is a funny, touching, frequently outrageous, always wonderful novel. If you've been a Catholic, if you know a Catholic, or if you are just in the mood for a great read, don't miss this extraordinary work. ▼

Gay Body

◀ previous page

that pride alone is not enough," he writes. "Indeed, I began to wonder, when does too much pride become hubris: a preening satisfaction with the self which ultimately defeats it. To come out to a world of gay affect is hardly a salvation when the inner world has been as devastated as it's been in nearly every queer life. What we can't see is exactly what hurts us most. Not claiming the wound means abandoning it to shadow, and thus we are fated for failure time and again."

Thompson also writes movingly of his younger brother (also gay and who died of AIDS), as well as the beginnings of the faerie gatherings, his first encounter

with Harvey Milk, his work at *The Advocate*, and his wanderings into the leather community.

Though it frequently sounds like one, *Gay Body* is not a self-help book. Rather, this is Thompson's account of his own "coming out inside." Thompson hopes, however, that he can teach through the example of himself. But while it is often wise, like the author himself, *Gay Body* is so specific to Thompson's life that it is unable to fully resonate as the chronicle of a gay "Everyman." ▼

Jameson Currier is the author of *Dancing on the Moon: Short Stories About AIDS*, published by Penguin, and a member of the National Book Critics Circle.

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BOOKS

Celebrity caucus

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Staring Back: The Disability Experience from the Inside Out, edited by Kenny Fries; Plume, \$15.95

There are so few books that address the issue described by the subtitle of *Staring Back* that I (recently wheelchair-bound and partially blinded as the result of a neurological disease) yearned for this book to be better than it is. The editor, Kenny Fries, is a columnist, poet, and memoirist. His personal writing on disability has been characterized as uneven — sometimes searing, sometimes missing the mark. This book is much the same: some of the pieces are extraordinary, while others leave the reader shaking her head perplexedly. For the disabled reader, little is new; all these pieces have been previously published. But the nondisabled reader might be drawn to the marquee of big names Fries proffers.

Though many know Fries best as a queer writer, there is marginal queer content here. *Staring Back* is more of a Who's Who of famous disabled writers, including some, like Adrienne Rich, who (though lesbian) don't identify as disabled. The eight writers whose names appear on the badly designed cover are all, like Rich, award-winning writers of serious note, including NBC reporter John Hockenberry and New York

er senior editor Ved Mehta.

This elitist element is both the book's greatest limitation and a disservice to diversity. With few exceptions, these are famous cripples here, the kind inspirational movies of the week are made of, not your garden-variety struggling crips, like myself. A subtle but significant statement is made by that fact: poor, unknown crips don't sell; their voices might be sprinkled in the elite mix, but only just. In a year when the queer community finally began to address class in a few books, in an age where disability and poverty go hand-in-crutch more often than not, I would have welcomed some strong essays (only Mark O'Brien comes close) or other writing that addressed these matters. Women are fairly well-represented, but why are there only token people of color, and almost no one with less than stratospheric incomes?

Staring Back is not, however, without its merits. Among these is a piece by Anne Finger called "Helen and Frida," about an imagined meeting (with highly eroticized overtones) between disability super diva Helen Keller and sexual omnivore Frida Kahlo. It's wonderful, witty, and sharp, and one of a handful of pieces that make this book worth having. Others are poems by the late AIDS activist Tim Dlugos, Lambda Award-winner Marilyn Hacker, disability activist Elizabeth Clare, and Fries. Also good is Lambda winner Raymond Luczak's "Ten Reasons Why



Editor Kenny Fries

Michael and Geoff Never Got It On." There are several pieces by Rich, one of America's best poets, but they seem yanked completely out of context, and, hence, are jarringly disappointing.

The essays in the book are interesting, but these are by disabled heavyweights of whom we expect great insights: Nancy Mairs, Mehta, Hockenberry, Mark O'Brien, and Lucy Grealy (whose book *Autobiography of a Face* is brilliant). Only one, an excerpt from Barbara Rosenblum's Lambda winner *Cancer in Two Voices*, is queer. The book includes a number of pieces by people with cancer or AIDS; the issue of illness and disability is a hot topic, yet surprisingly, given his dual roles in the queer and disabled communities, Fries doesn't address this in his meager introduction.

This critic yearns for the day when there are enough books by disabled writers that one has the luxury of choice. Till then, buy this book. ▼

I think, therefore I write

by Erin Blackwell

Wounds of Passion: A Writing Life by bell hooks; Henry Holt, \$20

Reflection" is not so much a dirty word as an abandoned activity. The whole notion of consciousness as the distinguishing characteristic of a self capable not just of being and doing but of contemplating life itself is obsolete in our Windowed world. As a result, cultural critic bell hooks' memoir *Wounds of Passion* may strike some readers as being at once longwinded and short on facts.

The subject of hooks' book is not really her "self," but the efforts of a young black female Kentuckian trying to "invent a writing life that could nurture and sustain a liberated woman." Even her pen name represents a reflected self, being "the name of my mother's mother," which serves an extra-literary purpose: "Two names will help me to practice detachment — remind me always that I am not my writing, but something more. And that it is useful not to be too identified with the ego."

Poetry is a special sanctuary. Hooks shares this passion with Mack, a black poet and academic. Their 11-year relationship, modeled on the Sartre-de Beauvoir school of open marriage between creative equals, is the heart of the book.

Mack is the man behind the writing of hooks' *Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism*. Her efforts at crediting him for its genesis have not always been judged politically correct: "It was after listening to me complain endlessly about the absence of material about black women in my course

that my partner urged me to write my own book — to tell my story. In those days, women-only audiences critiqued me for giving so much credit to a man. I believed it was important to give concrete examples of men supporting the feminist movement (especially a black man, as they were the group often seen as mostly sexist)."

Mack is also the "he" to hooks' "her" in the following scene: "And suddenly he makes a fist, throws back his hand with such force it smashes her glasses, even though he hits her repeatedly in the mouth. Blood spatters everywhere. He smiles and says, I see you've shut up now."

Somewhere between those two extremes is the daily life of the relationship, a space they create together in which to love and work. "She hopes to spend a lifetime writing words that will take her to a space where there is no pain," hooks writes about herself. Writing is one solution to suffering; love is another. Getting the delicate balance between the two is a problem for women of any race or class, and the struggle to achieve it forms the ideological premise of *Wounds of Passion*.

On equal footing with the political and poetical aspects of this book are the spiritual ones. Without explaining herself, hooks throws out hints about her Christian-to-Zen pilgrim's progress. The most extreme of these hints appears on the last page and elucidates the book's title: "When I was a child I heard again and again how our savior went into the desert to find his life again. Into the desert he fled with his heartache and his unrequited love. When he reappeared from his longest journey, to the desert only he had seen, the waste-

land of the cross and death hanging there, he was recognized, known only by the wounds of passion imprinted on his hands."

How successful hooks is in making the connections between her suffering — as a child, a woman, a black — and her experiences as a writer, depends a lot on the reader. Organized into 30-plus chapters that can be read as stand-alone autobiographical essays, this exercise in reflection invites participation. More than an accumulation of an individual's biographical minutiae or shared political problematics, *Wounds of Passion* constitutes a space in which to contemplate a life. ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Roberto Friedman



John Ashbery in the early 70s.

Poet unbound

It's hard to believe that John Ashbery is 70: his poetry has always been youthful, energetic, anxious to depart. The Ecco Press has recently published a new edition of his first five books of poetry under the title *The Mooring of Starting Out*; perhaps in celebration of the new book, Ashbery is making a rare Bay Area appearance, a reading co-sponsored by Small Press Traffic and the San Francisco Art Institute on Monday night, Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m. at the SFAI Auditorium (see info below).

Ashbery has never rested on his laurels, though they are many and include the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. Each new collection of poetry heralds a fresh approach to poetics with surprising construction, leaps of associative logic, a variety of forms. Like Frank O'Hara, he embodies the connection between poetry and the visual arts, and his art criticism, collected and edited by David Bergman in *Reported Sightings* (Harvard), casts reflections back on his poetry. In a consideration of de Kooning, for example, Ashbery wrote: "In art, in a sense, all change has to be for the better, since it shows that the artist hasn't yet given in to the ever-present temptation to stand still, and that his constantly menaced vitality is emitting signals." Or, from a review of etchings by John Cage: "The show is like a marvelous overdose of spring tonic. After you come out of it, everything and everybody you see looks like a new percussion instrument."

It will be a pleasure to welcome this great gay poet back to San Francisco. As he wrote by way of introducing SF artist Jess to MOMA audiences in NYC, "New York and California are part of the same continent, but so are Poland and Portugal." ▼

John Ashbery reads on Monday, January 26 at 7:30 p.m. at SFAI Auditorium, 800 Chestnut. \$6.



Grupo Heavy (left to right: Joel, Api, Peter and Payi) appear at Futura on Saturday night. See listing.

E3

Bridges

The Snow White Co. in two one-act plays by Lionel Kranitz: *Reach Out and Touch Someone*, and *You, the Night and the Music*. Thurs.-Sun. at 8pm thru 2/8. \$12. Yugen/Noh Space Theatre, 2840 Mariposa. 621-7797.

Dirty Little Showtunes!

Tom Orr's comedy musical revue: Broadway standards turned naughty. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm extended thru 3/1. \$16-22. New Conservatory Theater, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

En Drag

Female impersonators revue, hosted by Sexilya Luvseat. \$10. 9, 10&11:30pm. Kimo's, 1351 Polk. 885-4535.

Freak Show

Sideshow performances, exotic dancers, circus surprises. Resident DJ Cougar. \$5. Stud, 9th & Harrison. 565-0925.

Happy Anniversaries

Lou Reda's play: struggles of a gay relationship. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm. Sun. at 7:30pm thru 1/25. Call for ticket price. Studio at Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Late Night Live

Comedy talk show; hosts David Mills, Brigitte Schwartz. Tonight: Tranynshack hostess Heklin, playwright Doug Holsclaw, Angela Alioto. \$8. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

The Maids

Jean Genet's play, directed by Joshua Mareschi, part of the Absurdist season. Fri., Sat. & 2/9 at 8pm thru 2/14. \$12. Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy. 673-3847.

Masami Teraoka

Paintings that combine pop art and Japanese woodblock prints, addressing AIDS, sexuality, cultural identity. Wed.-Sun. thru 1/25. \$7. Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. 379-8801.

Menopausal Gentleman

Peggy Shaw as a woman who passes for male, going thru menopause. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm thru 1/24. \$12-14. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Roy DeCarava

Retrospective exhibit of works by Harlem and jazz photographer, thru 4/14. \$8. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Say You Love Satan!

The Devil on Film, curated by Joel Shepard, Fridays thru 1/30. Tonight: Where Evil Dwells, an evening with filmmaker Tommy Turner. \$6. 8pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Screening Rm., 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

The Small P

ZooOperaDance performance troupe in allegorical dreamscapes, work-in-progress. \$5-10. 8:30pm. Jon Sims Center for Perf. Arts, 1519 Mission. 554-0402.

Sonic Luminescence

Dance/theatre piece inspired by 12th-century abbess Hildegard. 1/23-25, 29-2/1 at 8pm. \$12. Dancers' Group Studio Theater, 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

Women in Printing

And Publishing in California: 1850-1940, exhibit of pioneering women. Tues.-Sat. thru 4/18. \$3. Calif. Historical Society Mus'm, 678 Mission. 357-1848, x14.

thru 4/18. \$3. Calif. Historical Society Mus'm, 678 Mission. 357-1848, x14.

Sat

The Artists Ball

Dance at the Forum, performance art, choreography. Cocktails & dinner, 7pm, \$200. Dancing and dessert, 9pm, \$50. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Club Red

Dance party for women. \$5. 9pm. El Rio, 3158 Mission. 282-3325.

Colossus

Supersonic high-flying cataclysmic dance club. \$20 advance, \$25 door. 9pm-4am. Warfield, 982 Market.

Ex-Lovers

Scott O'Hara's surreal musical romance, with music by Tom Phillips. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm thru 2/14. \$12-22. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.



"The soul of the world" in *Sonic Luminescence* at Dancers' Group Studio Theater. See Friday.

Grupo Heavy

Puerto Rico's #1 group, live on stage at Latino dance club. \$10. 10pm. Futura, 174 King. 665-6715.

Rhapsodies in Black:

Art of the Harlem Renaissance multimedia exhibition, thru 3/8. \$7 + \$2.50 surcharge. Palace of the Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park, 334th Ave. & Clement. 863-3330.

San Francisco Magic

Magicians from the SF Conjurors Club perform. Saturdays at 8pm thru 2/28. \$13 + \$2 min'm. City Cabaret, 450 Geary. 215-1001.

Saturday Night Gay Comedy

Gay comics Danny Williams, John Doyle, Suzy Berger. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Sweet Honey in the Rock

African American a cappella singers. \$25. 8pm. Zellerbach Auditorium, UC Berkeley. (510) 642-9988.

Sun

Akuma No Te

(Touched by the Hand of the Devil) Films on the dark side of humanity, in conjunction with Masami Teraoka show. Sundays at 2pm thru Jan. \$7 museum admission. Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. 379-8801.

Beer/Soda Bust

Benefits Men of All Colors Together. \$8. 3:30-6pm. SF Eagle, 12th & Harrison. 675-0201.

Carren Strock

Reads from *Married Women Who Love Women*, free. 3:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Menopausal Gentleman

Benefit performance: Peggy Shaw as a woman who passes for male, going thru menopause. \$12 to aid Queer Cultural Center Project. 6pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Peter Max

Pop and expressionistic art, thru 2/10. Dyansen Gallery, 799 Beach. 928-0596.

Mon

Gay Comedy Open Mic

MC Danny Williams, up-and-coming comic talent, performers sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Ideas in Animation

Nik Phelps and the Sprocket Ensemble: live music to new animation. 10. 7:30 & 9:30pm. Minna Street Gallery, 111 Minna. 681-3189.

John Ashbery

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet reads. \$6. San Francisco Art Institute Auditorium, 800 Chestnut. 437-3454.

Real Women, Not Models

Photographs by Perry Nennig, thru Jan. Mad Magda's Russian Tea Room, 579 Hayes. 864-7654.

Wired Magazine:

"Selections from the Permanent Collection," printed and electronic versions of magazine layouts, thru 3/10. \$7. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Yogic Approach to HIV

Monday night course led by Jason Heyman begins tonight,

6pm. \$42. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores. 824-9600.

Iyes

Art, Sex & Spirit

Q-Spirit queer spirituality group presents authors of Cassell's *Encyclopedia of Queer Myth, Symbol, and Spirit*. \$10. 7:30pm. Kairos, 2128 15th St. 281-9377.

Border

(Meta)morphosis: 1848 one-hundred fifty years later, group exhibition by artists originally from the Southwest, thru 2/7. Terrain, 165 Jessie. 543-0656.

Endangered Species:

"Artists Examine Environmental Issues" exhibit includes William T. Wiley, Tom Marioni, more. Tues.-Sat. thru 1/31. Jernigan Wicker Fine Arts, 161 Natoma. 512-0335.

Fire

Deepa Mehta's 1996 film: women escaping oppressed marriages in modern India. 7:15 & 9:30pm. Red Vic Movie House, 1727 Haight. 668-8999.

Foggy City Dancers

Gay & lesbian square dancing, free introductory class. 7:30pm. Live Oak School, 117 Diamond. 905-4546.

Gross Indecency:

"The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde," Moisés Kaufman's play. Tues.-Sun. extended thru 4/12, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$25-39. Theatre on the Square, 450 Post. 433-9500.

The Hospital:

Five Confessions. New installation by Russian artist Ilya Kabakov, thru 1/31. Capp Street Project, 525 2nd St. 495-7101.

Hunter Reynolds

Display of Memorial Dress for drag persona Patina du Prey. Also: Rodney O'Neal Austin's *Now Entering Beavercreek, Ohio*; nine artists in *To Be Real*. \$5. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

It's All True!

Film and video series challenging idea of reality. Tues.-Sun. thru 3/1. Museum admission \$5. Center for the Arts Screening Room, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

James D. Phelan Art Award

In Photography, exhibition by winners David Berg, Kim Brown, Erin O'Neill. Tues.-Sat. thru 2/28. San Francisco Camerawork, 115 Natoma. 764-1001.

L'Chaim!

"A Kiddush Cup Invitational," ritual drinking cups in many media, thru 2/8. \$5. Jewish Museum/SF, 121 Steuart. 543-8880.

Philharmonia Baroque

Orchestra Ensembles perform lunchtime concerts, free. Tues. at noon thru 1/27. Giannini Auditorium, Bank of America, 555 California. 495-7445.

Picasso & Villers:

"The Diurne Portfolio," exhibit of collaboration: photographs & paper cut-outs. Thru 3/8. \$5. Ansel Adams Ctr., 250 4th St. 495-7000.

Robert Taylor

Reads from his novel *The Innocent*, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Sol Lewitt

Wall drawings and photographs by pioneering Conceptualist, thru 2/28. Fraenkel Gallery, 49 Geary. 981-2661.

Cougar Cash and Trashina at Freak Show at the Stud. See Friday.

Thur

Bio-Experiments:
"Unnatural Specimens" by Alan Rath, "Natural Specimens" by Rob Craigie, thru 2/7. Haines Gallery, 49 Geary. 397-8114.

Black Hose Mountain
Works by Gay Outlaw, thru 2/28. Refusalon, 20 Hawthorne. 546-0158.

Cherrie Moraga
Reads from *Waiting in the Wings: Portrait of a Queer Motherhood*, free. 7:30pm. Black Oak Books, 1491 Shattuck, Berkeley. (510) 486-0698.

Come In From the Rain
David Mauriello's erotic drama: a bank clerk and a buff call boy. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm thru 3/7, call for Sun. matinees. \$16-20. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Death of a Salesman
Arthur Miller's Pulitzer Prize-winning play. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm thru 2/8. \$18. Actors Theatre of SF, 533 Sutter. 296-9179.

Full Frontal Rudity
Queer Latino comedy trio Latin Hustle performs. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm thru 2/7. Studio at Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Gavin Geoffrey Dillard
Reads from *In the Flesh*, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Jack Sturges
New photographs, the innocence of children. Tues.-Sat. thru 2/21. (Lecture: 2/11, 7:30pm, SF Camerawork.) Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary. 421-0122.

John Altoon
A critical survey retrospective, thru 1/31. Braunstein/Quay Gallery, 250 Sutter. 392-5532.

The Joke
Comic Maureen Brownsey in solo multimedia work. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 1/31. \$10. Venue 9, 252 9th St. 626-2169.

Scott Williams
SF artist's large mural of the city in 2000, done by stencil technique. Thru 3/1. \$5. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Shear Madness
Comedy whodunit set in unisex salon. Tues.-Sun. Call for times, prices. Mason Street Theatre, 340 Mason. 982-5463.

Under 24 Performance Fest
2nd annual selection of short solo works by theatre artists under 24. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 2/7. \$10. Bindlestiff Studio, 185 6th St. 974-1167.

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Happy Anniversary

Thurs, Fri, & Sat @ 8:30, Sunday @ 7:30. Tickets \$15 At the Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros 2926 16th St, San Francisco For Information and Reservations call: 415-861-5079



John James

Wed 28

Alchemy

A new multimedia work by brothers Lyle Ashton Harris and Thomas Allen Harris, thru 3/14. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom. 626-5416.

Beach Blanket Babylon

Musical revue extravaganza. Call for times, ticket prices. Club Fugazi, 678 Beach Blanket Babylon (formerly Green St.). 421-4222.

Essence of Style:

Chinese Furniture of the Late Ming and Early Qing Dynasties exhibit opens, thru 9/6. \$7. Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. 379-8801.

Five Points of View

Contemporary basket artists, thru 3/15. SF Craft & Folk Art Museum, Bldg. A, Fort Mason. 775-0991.

Gino Severini:

"Works on Paper from 1922 to 1965" and "A Futurist Footnote" exhibitions. Wed.-Sun. thru 3/22. \$2. Museo

ItaloAmericano, Bldg. C, Fort Mason. 673-2200.

How I Learned To Drive

Berkeley Rep Theatre presents Paula Vogel's off-Broadway hit. Thru 2/27, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$34.50-45. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison. (510) 845-4700.

Ikat:

"Splendid Silks from Central Asia," exhibit thru 3/1. \$7. de Young Museum, Golden Gate Park. 863-3330.

Insurrection: Holding History

A.C.T. presents Robert O'Hara's riff on history, slavery, and sexual identity. Tues.-Sat. at 8pm; Wed., Sat. & Sun. at 2pm thru 2/8. \$14-51. Geary Theater, 415 Geary. 749-2228.

New Tendencies in Spanish Art

Contemporary Spanish artists, thru 2/7. Southern Exposure, 401 Alabama. 863-2141.

Pacific Rim Sculptors

Group show includes Tim Jag,

Mary King, Ann Weber, thru 1/30. SFMOMA Rental Gallery, Bldg. A, Fort Mason. 441-4777.

Suede

Jazz, pop and blues stylings. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm thru 1/31. \$12. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Town Hall

Meeting on anal neoplasia in gay men, free. 7:30pm. MCC, 150 Eureka. 476-2909.

When Borders Migrate:

Reflections on the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, group exhibition curated by Rebecca Solnit. Wed.-Sat. thru 3/7. SF Art Commission Gallery, 401 Van Ness. 554-6080.

William Watson

Plays new age piano music to promote debut release, *Fields*, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Wittgenstein: On Mars

George Coates' theater work opens tonight. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm thru 2/28. \$24-36. Performance Works, 110 McAllister. 392-4400.



Irish Youth

Pop/jazz vocalist and instrumentalist Suede plays Josie's Cabaret. See Wednesday.

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Tony the top wins MAL title

by Mister Marcus

The Centaur Motorcycle Club's production of the 14th Mid-Atlantic Leather Weekend in Washington, D.C., last weekend (Jan. 16-19) proved to the world that a dedicated club with associate members, groupies and volunteers can pull together to produce a sterling event that ranks right up there with IML, IM Drummer and other high-profile competitions.

Close to 1,500 leather people converged on the nation's capital to network, booze, cruise and otherwise take advantage of leather family togetherness in the first major leather competition of the year. Delegates from around the world had a great time in the mild winter weather that encouraged leather wear.

In his farewell speech, outgoing MAL Mike Siemer extended his thanks to everyone who enhanced his year with the title. He said he would continue his efforts to unite the tribe and all who may be interested in joining "our family."

Fifteen high-quality contes-

tants, who ranged in age from 26 to 50, were in pursuit of the title. Judges IML Genelle Moore, IML Kevin Cwayna, IM Drummer '96 Kyle Brandon, chief IML judge Thom Dombkowski, former Drummer publisher Tony DeBlase, and Mike Seimer (head judge) had their hands full. The obligatory interviews, physique show, and speeches went smoothly; and main emcee Frank Nowicki kept the whole shebang moving along at a nice clip.



Bazaar

The opening number was worthy of a standing ovation; a glass gas chamber fantasy brought Mike Siemer onstage -- the crowd went wild! Everything progressed in a timely fashion until the moment of truth arrived.

The judges will attest that this was no easy job. Three points separated the winner and the first runner-up; two points separated the first runner-up and the second runner-up. In the end, 36-year-old Tony Mills, a strapping 6'2", 215 lb. Miami, Fla. man who recently exchanged a medical field career for construction consulting, garnered the sash, the medal and the title. A screaming, stomping,



Audience favorite Tony Mills in the jock portion of the MAL contest.

standing ovation followed. Mills, a former San Francisco resident, was sponsored by Fort Lauderdale's Ramrod Bar and the Noose of New York City.

In his second try for the title, Washington's Carl Baldwin was the first runner-up. The second runner-up was Frank Waugh of Pittsburgh, Penn. The other contestants were: "Air Bear" of Harrisburg, Penn.; Shadow Singer of NYC; Derye Drew of Denver; Rob Keyes of Washington, D.C.; Lee Tomasetti of Scranton, Penn.; Mufasa from Chicago; Keith Puollanen of McLean, Va.; Will Colon of Washington; Thom Lockwood of Ottawa, Canada; Steve Stack of Alexandria, Va. (formerly of SF); Bob Forbes of Syracuse, N.Y.; and Mark Proctor of Richmond, Va. A visually stunning group, indeed!

The leather cocktails party on Saturday night took place in yet another leather fantasy land. A six-foot ice sculpture of a real centaur (and anatomically correct, I might add) with outstretched arms holding a giant mirrored ball was the centerpiece of a lavish buffet. After the goodies vanished, over 100 enthusiastic clubs displayed their colors, which made for a lively pastiche of leather and heraldry. The new officers I listed in last week's column were sworn in with the ritual lighting of candles, and various

next page ►



Mid-Atlantic Leather winners (left to right): Carl Baldwin, first runner-up; Tony Mills, winner; and Frank Waugh, second runner-up.

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, Jan. 22

Choosing Mr. January 1999 on the Bare Chest Calendar at the Powerhouse, 2200. Win \$100, fame, fortune, maybe a new husband! Show those golden areolas now!

Friday, Jan. 23

Fetish dance and beer bust at the Turf Club in Hayward, 2200. Only \$5 if you're in fetish wear; otherwise, it's \$7 for this extravaganza produced by Den Calkins.

Saturday, Jan. 24

Lou Duff's rope class, 1000-1800, with Master Kee at Kairos, 2128 15th Street. Subject: "Discipline and Punishment." Something we all could stand a little tutoring in! Call 550-0122 for cost and location.

It's the "Meet Your Match" cyberspace match-up at the Eagle, 2000-2300, with a \$6 beer bust. Prizes awarded for closest match-ups. Did you click on that web site? It could be kismet!

Sunday, Jan. 25

It's Super Bowl Sunday with the Packers vs. the Broncos. Watch on five screens at the Eagle, while you down the incredible edibles and swill suds, 1500-1800. The \$8 cover benefits Men of All Colors Together.

A beer bust (1500-1800) at the Powerhouse benefits the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center (TARC). The event features \$1 raffles and special drink prices.

Wednesday, Jan. 28

The indefatigable Lou Duff's rope class, 1830-2200. Subject: "Rope: Head Harnesses and Sensory Deprivation." Call 550-0122 for cost and location.

Leather Buddies' first soiree of the year. Doors open 2100-2300. Leather boots mandatory. We're not talking go-go boots here, folks! No cologne. You will be sniffed by a certified bloodhound in all the appropriate places! Call 863-HEAD for information.

Mr. Northern California Drummer John Brown and Drummer Boy Joe Coloff present a \$7 beer bust for C.A.N. at Daddy's Bar, 2100-2400, with raffles, surprises, hilarity!

Thursday, Jan. 29

Mr. February 1999 on the BCC gets chosen tonight at 2200 at the pulchritudinous Powerhouse. Win \$100, adulation and the love of the masses! With a new set of judges!

Saturday, Jan. 31

Defenders MC beer bust at the Eagle, \$8. All the beer you can guzzle! Food, cruising (gaspl), fun!

BRANDY ALEXANDER

Look back in languor

by Sweet Lips

Well, I just got a sneak peek at Alan Rudolph's new film, *Afterglow*, starring my dear friend from my Carnaby Street days, Miss Julie Christie. Yes, it's true, gentle readers, Julie, Jean Shrimpton, Jane Asher (I saw Paul first!), Twiggy, Christine Keeler, Cilla Black, Dusty Springfield, Anita Pallenberg, Pet Clark, Lulu, etc. and I were all running around mod London in the Swinging Sixties together. We were called "birds" then. We wore short skirts and thigh-high go-go boots, white lipstick and frosted hair. I, as you may know, was originally chosen for the lead in *Darling*, but gave up my burgeoning film career to ply libations on the Polkstrasse instead. Anyway, Ms. Christie, who's pushing 60, looks terrific in the film and out-divas everyone without having to chew any scenery. You go, Julie! Let's have a pint of Guinness and reminiscence next time you're in town!

While I'm on a nostalgia kick, it would be apropos to mention the February 22nd graveside memorial celebration honoring the late Emperor Joshua Norton. The Widow Norton (a.k.a. Jose Sarria) has declared the annual tribute open to the public. She has also arranged for public transportation to the Woodlawn Cemetery in Colma. Each year, Her Majesty leads a retinue of mourners to her husband's grave. The Woodlawn Cemetery will provide a continental breakfast at 9 a.m., followed by the procession at 9:30 a.m. For more information, please call (415) 673-6160.

Please mark Feb. 19-22 in red on your calendars *tout de suite* as that's when their Imperial Majesties, Emperor Jacques

Michaels and Empress Veronda Lanai, will be presenting Coronation 1998. The crowning itself will be at the sparkling Gift Center Pavilion on Saturday, Feb. 21; the festivities start promptly at 6 p.m. More details on this stellar soiree to follow!

All you pigskin aficionados should scrimmage on down to the Polk Rendezvous (1303 Polk) for our annual Super Bowl Blowout on Sunday, Jan. 25, 2-7 p.m. Besides a lavish buffet, there'll be \$1 raffle tickets for the fabulous Reno train trip (March 20-22).

Also at the PR: Don't miss the "Suzie for Empress" party on Saturday, Jan. 31. Yes, there'll be scrumptious canapés and Jagermeister shots for \$2.50. Plus a special surprise show!

The famed Twin Peaks Tavern (a.k.a. The Glass Coffin - how rude!) at Castro and Market has the friendliest bartenders in town. For a special treat, nab the "sitting room" upstairs and sip a Pernod or two while the world passes you by. This special bird's-eye view of the Castro is just the thing for these rainy days we've been having.

In the culinary hierarchy, I'm definitely more a gourmand than a gourmet (despite my passion for blackened anything and Paul Prudhomme), but I must pass on the following info to all you brunch devotees - and you know who you are! Last Sunday, Bart Dreyer, Jim Doan and I went to the Avenidas Restaurant (199 Gough), and we all agreed that the omelets we wolfed down were the best we'd had in years! So fresh! So fluffy! So divine! Do try them (Sunday brunch - 8:30 a.m.-3

p.m.), and have a mimosa on me!

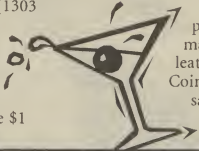
Well, although it's hard to believe, Valentine's Day (Saturday, Feb. 14) is just around the corner. It coincides, not so coincidentally, with National Condom Week (Feb. 14-21). If you're tired of the old "candy, flowers and a card" routine, then consider Good Vibrations' Men in Black Kit (\$25): a black Tiny plug, Men's Cream for masturbation, a black leather cock ring, Gold Coin condoms, and lube samples. The rest is, of course, up to you!

In preparation for the Red Hearts holiday, you might want to consider taking GV's "The Art of Male Submission" workshop on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 8-10 p.m., \$20, men only, 1210 Valencia at 23rd, (415) 974-8980. "Discover new ways to express your submissive side at this clothes-on [rats!] workshop that explores just how deep submission within power play can take you!" Body Electric's Harry Faddis explores "men's true beliefs about S/M and how to focus on the emotional aspects of S/M play." Sounds like a winner to me!

Incidentally - in response to the hordes of you who've inquired - for free sex toy catalogs, call the ever helpful Good Vibrations staff at 1-800-289-8423 or visit their web site at <http://www.goodvibes.com>. Happy hunting, folks! And remember: don't try to force a square peg into a round hole - unless you're into that, natch!

Finally, kudos to Tyler for doing such a fab job with the female illusionists at Kimo's. Check out the great drag shows upstairs at this august establishment when you're out for a nocturnal stroll down the Polkstrasse. ▼

Cocktail Hour



Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

awards were given out to Centaur MC groupies who went above and beyond in their loyalty to the East Coast's premier club.

The Sunday brunch prior to the contest was another grand affair, with fresh fruit, juices, egg dishes and all the trappings anyone could desire. Huge buses managed to transport delegates to all the venues, bars, tourist sites and official functions. MAL '98 co-chair (and former Centaur president) John Rocco, ever aware of the press, initiated the first-ever press brunch. This smart move, which occurred immediately following the contestants' pre-judging interviews, afforded each of us the opportunity to photograph and interview the contestants and judges, and generally schmooze with them for more and better insights. This press brunch will henceforth be one of the official functions of the MAL weekend!

In an informal survey I conducted of 30 men (both first-time attendees and faithful vets of MALs past), the Centaur MC earned a rating of 10-plus. There was no hesitation from the respondents to my questions; every single person agreed that the MAL extravaganza is the best bargain - bar none - in the entire leather pantheon of weekend events.

Next year, the Centaur MC will host the 15th edition of this great gathering of the leather tribe. As this soiree's importance and popularity increases, it would be wise

to make your plans now. This year's weather was cool but mild - no blizzard, no rain, no wind. The ideal leather-wearing atmosphere made for a wonderful weekend in the capital. I highly recommend this annual affair to all of you.

Last but not least, former International Ms. Leather Jill Carter has inaugurated her latest project: the Unsung Hero honors. These awards are given to people who have worked extra hard to make an event a success and whose recognition is long overdue. The first-ever recipients, Al Santora and Lauger Valentine, were paid tribute to on Sunday. Santora, the creator of the Mid-Atlantic Leather contest who also emceed it the first 10 years, has seen it grow from 200 to 300 attendees to today's massive group.

Valentine, another Centaur member, has voluntarily signed the event for almost 10 years, and has been very visible at IML as an onstage interpreter and in pre-judging interviews for the hearing impaired - as well as for other venues with a large deaf audience. His signing talent has helped bridge the gap between us and our non-hearing brothers and sisters, and his dedication and

outreach have worked to integrate all leather people.

The two's acceptance speeches were met with prolonged ovations. Everyone agreed that paying tribute to the unsung heroes and heroines of our community, of which there are many, should be a part of every event. We all know that volunteers or the lack thereof can make or break a production of any kind. Many of them are overlooked when plaques and trophies are bestowed, but this will hopefully no longer be the case.

Kudos to Jill Carter. Your pioneering spirit continues to thrive, and illustrates once again your caring, love and empathy for your leather brothers and sisters. Not only are you made of the right stuff, you also do the right thing. Your partners, Viola Johnson and Queen Cougar, can rightfully be proud of their long association with you. Your caring extends way beyond your own family. Bravo!

And to the Centaur MC: you were never lovelier. To Mike Siemer, thanks for a good, fun and productive year. In 1998, our first leather title-holder is a genuine top! Will this trend continue in future contests? Time will tell! ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

Chows Restaurant Sun, 12/21
Sitting by kitchen, you with 2 friends, me with one. We flirted all through dinner. You have beautiful smile. Would love to meet for dinner and dessert. ☎ 9601

Your uninhibited gaze Fri Cafe
Wanted my attention; paces away. Conscious ego wouldn't chance me to muster "hello" curious of you. Coated leather jacketed with friend? Me, dancing group tank-t. Permit me dinner with you... ☎ 9602

Sat 12/27 on 278 Bryant bus 3pm
at Post and Leavenworth. Me: dark hair, moustache, glasses, black leather jacket, tan Levi. You: blue eyes, blond hair, clean shaven b. Levi sitting in back of bus. I sat behind you. We smiled. Please call. ☎ 9603

Tall Asian man with Rav4 1/4
Castro couldn't stop smiling at each other Sunday 2nd 45. You were with someone. Me: tall, blond, black jacket, blue shirt with 3 friends. We've done this before. Time to meet. ☎ 9703

Steam Works 12/2/98
Afternoon. James, you cute, hunky black man, on extended lunch, you came to my room. Me bearded white guy, you brought me to the edge. Again, when there is more time? ☎ 9701

Sharon McNight 12/31 10:00show
You fondled my back and rubbed your foot against mine. I caressed your leg. We've noticed each other before. I would love to meet you. Please call. ☎ 9702

Ronnell the dancer
I lost contact with you when I went overseas. Sol Y Luna should ring a bell. ☎ 9704

Hot fuck at Mack 12/27
About 2:00 at night. You: muscular black dude, huge dick. Me: shaved head white boy. You pounded my ass up against the wall in the corner. I want more. ☎ 9705

Embarcadero 1 elevator 12/28
Brief eye contact between garage and movies. I'm short, glasses, stache, red sweatshirt. Your shirt pushed up to show your furry arms. Not first time I've noticed you. ☎ 9604

Bank of America Castro @ 18th
1/2/98 afternoon. Me: black jacket, goatee, at teller window with friend. You: nice smile at another teller. Me near inside ATM as you leave. We smiled. Care to talk? ☎ 9706

ISO: Drag queen Kitty Glamour
Met you NYE @ Castro Station. You are the hottest babe around. You'll remember me by the kisses. You have my number. Please call. You're hot! ☎ 9707

Dec 21 PM U called me ISO Tony
You have a great voice! Sorry I couldn't talk. People in the house. Would love to talk to you-meet you-llick your boots!! Call ☎ 9708

Walgreens @ 16th & Mission
Friday, Dec. 26. You were picking up an Rx. I said "hi" but was too shy to say more. I'd like to meet you. ☎ 9709

12/29 7pm I validated your
parking. You just saw Wings of the Dove. We spoke briefly outside Embarcadero Ctr cinema. I'm Asian, sorry did not stay long to talk with you. ☎ 9710

Wed/ 12/31 9pm BofA ATM 18th St.
& Castro. We talked about the New York musical Sideshow. Damn Yankees and Chita Rivera. I enjoyed our conversation and would like to continue where we left off over coffee. ☎ 9711

Eureka St-roommate-Sun 12/28
You: very cute shirtless roommate. Me: guest. We passed at teh bath-room and again when I was leaving. Want to get together...how about it? ☎ 9712

Andrew 12/28
I came back to Eagle and you were gone, would love to continue where we left off-Michael. ☎ 9713

Cutie in red jacket and blue cap
leaving Pleasuredome 12/29. I wore a Cleveland Indians shirt. We glanced and danced together but didn't talk. Would like to do both even more. You're a good dancer. ☎ 9714

Castro censorship at MCC
I sat behind you near the back. You were with friends. We kept watching each other, but I left early, after you spoke. ☎ 9715

In this our life
Roxie, Sunday December 28. We made eye contact and smiled. I hope that wave didn't mean goodbye. Please call. ☎ 9716

Mystery man at SFGMCXmas
show at Castro theatre. You gave me bouquet of beautiful roses then disappeared. Didn't get the chance to say thank you. Hope you're out there somewhere. Happy New Year. ☎ 9717

Wally at Universe/Fag Fridays
Seen you many times. Want to talk to you, but I'm always too shy or messy. Can we talk? Do dinner? Me: cap guy. ☎ 9718

N-Car stop @ 10/Judah
You: tall, dark haired, waiting for outbond, sucking on water bottle. Me: across the street, beard, buff, brown. Car came to soon, huh? ☎ 9801

Said my name wasn't Bill--9304
Do answer to Robert instead. Do remember being asked but not by whom. Refresh my memory if interested. What do you want to know? ☎ 9802

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

New to East Bay
GBM 38, 6', 195, hairy bottom looking for an easy going top to show me around town and have fun at the same time. ☎ 9606

Pacific Islanders young & slim
New friends sought by romantic WM, 54 (looks 40's) 5'11, 170, HIV-, NS, brown hair/eyes, handsome, clean shaven city boy, likes cats, scuba, travel, photography, monogamous LTR possible. ☎ 9605

Looking for boyfriend
6', 195, 28, bi-racial W/B, handsome, HIV+, healthy, enjoy movies, music, eating out, financially stable hard working, looking for 25-37, stable affectionate honest, versatile, no drugs, Latinos +, but all are welcome. ☎ 9607

Perfect touch
WM, good-looking, brn/gm, 6'1, 185, thirtysomething, Ph.D., clean-cut, professional, warm, honest, enthusiastic, eclectic interests, self-aware, genuine, no game playing. I give great massage. ☎ 9608

Seek Bruce Willis-type
GWM seeks tall, burly, balding businessman 35-45. Enjoys dinners out, disco dancing, and quiet nights at home with dogs. Me: 6'3", 185, 36yo professional with sharp sense of humor. ☎ 9609

Handsome Bear Now Available
30yo seeks young (24-32), slim to medium guy for relationship. You're hippyish, easy-going, adventuresome, spontaneous and well-grounded. Not a clone. You turn heads. Call. Let's meet. ☎ 9610

HIV+ Blk 5'10 165#
I am brown skin slim build with a decent look. I am attracted to older guys who have lean well-proportionate trim and fit bodies. No bear types. ☎ 9611

Shy man seeks companionship
SF GWM, 57, 5'10, 160, NS. Very shy so meeting men is difficult for me. Classical piano training. Enjoy hiking, computers, seeking someone similar or who enjoys a quiet gay man. Meet over coffee. ☎ 9612

Shall we dance?
or should we just have dinner? AM, 31, 5'5, looking for a funny guy under 36 (under 5'9 a plus) to have fun with. ☎ 9614

Handsome GWM 36 blond 6' 185
Explore sunny Sonoma county with intelligent, fit, sexy, romantic, masculine professional. Successful and responsible. Seeking GAM 25-40, sexy, romantic, ND, NS, clean-cut, enjoy the beach/pool. ☎ 9615

Not looking for sex
If you enjoy cuddling, candlelight dinners, movies, running on the beach, hiking, making love, and you are healthy, in shape, optimistic, life loving, humorous, active, call me. I'm 42, 175#, 5'9, balding/buzz cut, goatee, sideburns, goodlooking, hairy, uncut. ☎ 9616

Sonoma county Lil guy Skg LTR
Handsome, spiritual, contry lilguy, youthful 40's, goatee, seeks tall, affectionate, emotionally available HIV- fellow, 40-50 for dating, LTR. I'm optimistic, playful, musical, earthy, hot, NS/ND. ☎ 9617

GAM in SF seeks other GAMs
for friendship, fun or relationship. I'm 29, 5'5, 110#, smooth. ☎ 9618

Best friend seeks same
(not having much trouble getting laid-would like to meet someone though) Would like to meet someone to share affection and intimacy with. I'm 45, HIV+, top looking for a stocky bottom who wants to have a best friend. ☎ 9719

Aggressive Asian and Black men
GWM, 45, 165#, desires Asian and black men who are dominant in bed. I am submissive and can make love for hours. ☎ 9720

Romantic Latino seeks GWM
for LTR. Me: honest, mature, funny, down to earth, versatile, 37, 5'10, 150#, blk/blk, HIV+, healthy, affectionate. Enjoy movies, music, dinners, gym. You: proportionate 30-40, NS, ND. ☎ 9721

GM30sSeekingGWM45s-60s
for friend to LTR. Clean, HIV-, NS/D; healthy, a small build, slender a plus. ☎ 9722

Friendship first, then...
Me: 30, blond, introspective, intuitive, romantic, intelligent, compassionate, earthy. You: around 26-36, sincere, focused, relationship-oriented. Pluses: Latino or Asian, no drugs, leather-oriented. ☎ 9723

Want a friend or mate in 98?
This babe doesn't come w/ diaper and sash, but if your New Year's resolution is to find someone with compassion, intelligence, sincerity and a humorous, youthful outlook on life. Call me! ☎ 9724

Seeking male signifiers
Smooth Poz muscle jock looking for a stocky poz muscle bear. I'm 5'5, 145, tattooed, muscled versatile top, needing tough hairy bottoms. For workouts in the South Bay. ☎ 9726

HIV+ Hispanic seeks BM
GWM, 27yrs, HIV+, bottom, 5'10, 155#, seeks black mate, HIV+, top, in SF. ☎ 9733

Mind, body, soul
GWM, 30yo, 5'8, 155#, brn/brn, muscular, medium hairy chest, Ph.D., shy, affectionate, spiritual, enjoys weightlifting, hiking, movies, cuddling. ISO fit, hairy chested WM to 37yo with similar interests, NS, ND, HIV-. ☎ 9727

Seeking someone
sincere, who knows how to have a relationship. Me: 24yr. Asian, 5'10, 150#, sincere, caring, and healthy love to see moves. Please call me. ☎ 9728

GIM, Scorpino seeks fun
Seeking Black or Latino guys who are ready for romance, passion, and a great massage. I'm a 30yo Italian-American, 5'4, 145#, masculine-bottom, sexy eyes. ☎ 9729

Cuddle in heaven
30yr old Filipino cute hard body 5'6, 137#, HIV-, smooth ISO GWM HIV-, NS, 18-35, only cute and defined hard body for quality satisfying time. ☎ 9730

Let's do it
I am a butch looking for a daddy bear. Me: 6'1, brn, blue, 255. I need a men! ☎ 9731

Seeking HIV buddy
Who looks healthy and fit with weight and height in proportion. A fairly firm body would be the icing on the cake. Me: blk, 5'10, 170#, slim build decent look. No bear types. ☎ 9732

Visualize a...
21yo, 165#, 6', GW/HM, dark features, light spirit. A casual Leo who appreciates progressiveness, nature and creativity. In shape prefer UB2. Seeks attractive young guy for enjoyment of one another. ☎ 9734

Beefy and brawny men
under 40 and over 170# sought by muscular Asian 34, 5'9, 174#, for fun/friendship, NS/ND. ☎ 9735

Sex slave wanted
GWM, 54, 5'7, 140, masculine, NS, HIV-, safe. You: HIV-, totally obedient, under 40, willing to give over control, B/D, S/M. My agenda, my way. Will train. ☎ 9736

A class act
Attractive, intelligent, rich (but very together) GWM-40's, 5'8, 177, br/gr-seeks very cute and classy GWM/GLM under 30 for fun/friendship/hot sex? Have a great sense of humor and many interests: indoors and out. You should too. ☎ 9737

New Year, old hope
Attractive, intelligent, GAM, 31, 5'11", 135#, looking for GWM: 31-45 yrs. HIV-, honest, mature, not feminine, professional, normal looking and in shape. Let's head into LTR if its a good match. ☎ 9738

New Year, old hope
Attractive, intelligent, GAM, 31, 5'11", 135#, looking for GWM: 31-45 yrs. HIV-, honest, mature, not feminine, professional, normal looking and in shape. Let's head into LTR if its a good match. ☎ 9738

I want you!!
Wanted: one GWM bottom 48-55 yrs who wants more than a one night sexual healing. Offered: one GWM top, late 40's, ISO ongoing bed partner or LTR. I'm affectionate, articulate and communicative. ☎ 9739

Hunky Handsome loving package
Quality GWM wants passionate relationship and possible LTR. I'm 6'2, 190#, 40s, very muscled, hot Italian, soulful, loyal, exclusive, sinner, talented, HIV-, nonprogressive, professional, sexually charged from puppy to leather. Looking for similar, 30-40yr old GWM who wants to look me in the heart, die for my body and live for my soul. Prefer facial hair. Seriously only ☎ 9740

Lonely college guys out there?
GWM couple 27 seek 3rd for LTR. US: 6'1, 170, brn/hazel and 6'155, brn/gm, both NS D/D free. You: under 28, avg build, NS, D/D free. ☎ 9741

East Bay GWM seeks GBM for LTR.
Me: 5'11", 185#, 8" cut, professional, sensitive, romantic, greatesse, open to diverse possibilities. You: GBM, 5'9" or less, caring, sincere, loving, professional, enjoys life in/out of bed. ☎ 9725

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking Latino, 32yo, dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, like to go to movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel. Looking for GWM between 25-37yo for friendship or more. Just call. ☎ 9742

Let me be the one to hold you
Attractive, passionate, GWM, 6'1", 155, 43, firm body seeking attractive, romantic, GAM, 25-45, who possesses a sharp mind, kind heart, and a smooth, firm body. ☎ 9743

Pac Isl/Latino wanted by
young, slim, good looking, 5'11, blk, brown, versatile, mod. hairy, BIWM, nice guy wants to be indulged. No STD's, ancients, shorty's. Be secure, horny, versatile bottom. LTR maybe. ☎ 9745

Asian male seeking friends
GAM, 38, 140, 5'7 1/2" In good shape, smooth, dark, likes movies, theatre, dining. Seek WM 28-38 with some interests for friends and dating. ☎ 9746

Mendocino bottom
Healthy HIV+ GWM, 5'11, 147#, br/blue, goatee, slim, passive, romantic, loves outdoors. ISO tall GWM/GLM 25-35, honest and sincere, for friendship, dating, sex poss. LTR first time ad. ☎ 9747

Looking for romance
Goodlooking GWM, 40, 6' tall, 195# and HIV+ is looking for a romantic partner. I have short dark hair, moustache and smooth body. All nationalities between 30-40 can respond. NS ☎ 9748

Bodybuilder
Seeks another bodybuilder for the sharing of mutual interests and strong man to man action. ☎ 9749

Latino bottom seeks top in E. Bay
GLM, 30, 5'10, 175#, handsome in very good shape ISO top, 30-40yrs. Shld be very masc. good looking and workout. Race unimportant. Hairly chest a plus. ☎ 9750

Cute, romantic, warm GAM 34
5'11". 145. ISO GWM, 30's, well-built, sexy, responsible, intelligent, great kisser. Let's take a cosy breakfast backroads drive up the coast, through Sonoma, wine & dine in Calistoga. That's what the beginning. ☎ 9803

Badass buttboy needed!
Seeking GW masc/submissive bottom for GW masc/active top dirty of man, who wants and knows how to make your ass feel real good. ☎ 9804

Chicano guy 26
Regular type, 5'7, 165, stocky, muscular build, student. Seeking Latins, Whites or Asians under 40 for friendship maybe more. N/S. ☎ 9805

Intense, bi-racial, 23
Handsome black/white man (6 feet tall, 155 pounds, black hair, brown eyes, goatee) seeks white man under 30 for friendship/relationship. Mature, emotional, spontaneous and sensual. ☎ 9806

Tale of Mr. Hirsute and smooth!
I would be the tall hairy one, and you would be the smooth, b between 30 and 45, well read and witty, warm-hearted and humorous. I am 45 with a kind smile. ☎ 9807

Fun loving pre-op transsexual
Hawaiian-Chinese 33, looking for friendship. Enjoys the simple things in life. ☎ 9808

Friendship-relationship sought
by an attr. loving-caring GWM, 74, 5'7", 165. You are 18-40, goalk, romantic, HIV-, and open to a LTR with a more mature man. ☎ 9809

Fun A GAM?
Hip GWM, 40ish, funny, honest, seeks trim GAM over 30 for friendship, possible LTR. I enjoy arts, music, treasure hunting, travel, romance!! Call me now!! ☎ 9810

Seeking GBM/GHM
GWM, 6'3", 170, 41, br/br, HIV-, athletic, attractive, masculine into sports, music, movies, seeking attractive GBM/GHM, 30-45 with similar interests for dating, possible LTR. ☎ 9811

Youthful 40s
Goodlooking, athletic, GWM, HIV-, enjoys smoking/drinking looking for compatible Asian who enjoys socializing for friendship/poss. LTR. ☎ 9812

GWM early 50's
HIV- seeks mature N/S Asian for dining, walks, friendship, possible LTR. ☎ 9813

My funny valentine...
Likes laughter, love, romance, honesty, spirituality, and achieving goals. GWM, 45, 6, 385, NS, gym, healthy poz. All of the above. A good catch. My happy future includes you. ☎ 9814

Passionate kisser seeks GAM
GWM, 26, 6', boyish good looks, nice slim body, seeks Asian male, 18-40, for hot intense get-togethers. Don't be shy. Call me. ☎ 9744

Life is an adventure
Great attitude, passionate, goodlooking, 26yo GLM looking for cute 23-35 GM any race for friendship/relationship. I am 5'8, 150#, and enjoy films, exercise, travel, great food. ☎ 9815

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Ride on my bushy moustache
And feel my long tongue up your hot butt. Me: 6', 165#, brn/blu, 38. You: hot & ready. ☎ 9619

I'd do a gorilla
If I knew he'd relax. You-funny. Me-38, br/bl, stache who will suck you as long as you'd like. ☎ 9768

Ball worship
My two egg-shaped balls are waiting for your hot mouth and tongue. me: attractive GWM, 46, 6'5, 250, football player's build. You: attrac GWM 18-35, slim, smooth, moderate body-hair. ☎ 9620

I'm a muscular hairy latino
seeking a masculine, stocky, hung, versatile man for hot times. Facial and/or chest hair is a plus. I'm 33, 5'7, 160#, shaved head, beard, 7" thick and uncut. ☎ 9621

Sexy Italian seeks playmate
GWM, 41, 5'10, 190#, br (bald), br, hairy, GT, well hung, topish in a LTR. Skis discreet, ahny, GWM, 35-45, in SF. Also a LTR. ☎ 9622

Hot piece of ass wanted
Dominant, muscular, fuck stud, 38, 190#, 6'1, great shape! Seeks boys/men 25-45, thin to muscular, hard body required, who like to service dick and get fucked. Not S&M. ☎ 9623

Seeking a hung uncult top
I'm a masculine, caucasian, oral bottom, 32, 5'11, 170#, moustache, goatee, well endowed. Looking to service a hung, masculine, uncult man of any race. Facial or body hair a plus. ☎ 9624

Just too much for my ad
If your HIV- slim like safe sex no rushing or pain, I am WM 58 HIV-. Let's talk. Tell me your likes, I'll tell you mine, then let's do it. ☎ 9625

Leatherman Give n take
Very muscled part-time leather man, 6'2, 190#, 40yo, 46°C, 16", sexually wild, versatile, looking for butt play buddy and possible relationship with 25-40yo, also very muscled with preferred facial hair, who wants to connect emotionally and physically with another top notch man. Call: ☎ 9626

Wanted: big hairy firm butt
Aggressive top, hung big needs well built WM, hairy with big firm butt to eat and fuck. ☎ 9627

Are you bing served?
Seasoned GWM seeks 45+ master chef to cook with. Prefer a beef with hot chicken on a bed of thick dark angel's hair. Make my mouth water. ☎ 9628

Big arms and hands
I want to watch my boyfriend get spanked by a tall man with glib hands to make his gym toned butt red. We are both good looking, inshape guys hung big. You be hung big & like to be serviced. ☎ 9629

Hung big
Hot 6', 37, 160# good looking all-American collegiate type w/ gym toned body. Hung big, versatile. Seeks goodlooking guys for fun. Couples, hung big a plus. ☎ 9630

Boysish bottom seeks WM top
Young looking, slender WM, 30, 5'9, 50, nice shapely boyish butt, beautiful puckered anus; submissive to tall, lean WM top, to 45 with nice crotch. Sex only. No pain/STDs. ☎ 9631

Hey dildo boys into phone sex
WM very masculine dominant top seeks a submissive bottom boy with a hungry hole, big dildos and a craving for heavy duty regular phone sex. ☎ 9632

Hung big?
If you're hung so large that it's hard to find someone who can take as much as you want to give, give this hot muscle man a call ☎ 9633

All I want is to...
suck on your hot clean butt. Hot & horny stud, 44, 6', 190, goatee, rugged, wants to suck on your ass for hours. ☎ 9634

Balls and deep cock sucker
Deep cock service from devoted worshipper. 46, 5'9, br/br, beard, stache. Repeat sessions for trim, hung, 30s. 40s with a load to share. ☎ 9772

Handsome hot and horny
Very sexy GWM 35, 5'9, 160, bl/bl, longs to meet hot, hung tops to pleasure. Ready for fun? ☎ 9635

Black Irish seeks red
Dark, gdlyg Irish-Am whose hot mouth waters for those big white buns and that pink meat. 40, fit and fired up for a redhead. ☎ 9758

Oral service given
front and rear. Have hot mouth. Watersports, uncuts A+. Body scents appreciated. ☎ 9751

Chubby men
LM, 40, 6', 155# ISO very chubby men who don't exercise and are comfortable with themselves who enjoy slow oral action. Facial hair a +. Not into gay lifestyle. ☎ 9752

Uncut ISO uncult
Cute, boyish, WM, 37, 5'7", 135, oral, bottom/versatile seeks safe sexual fun with other uncult men. Age, race, size unimportant. Foreskin a must. ☎ 9753

Seeking Smeigma
Horny GWM seeks uncult GM with cheery pole for fun and fames, sensual delights, pleasures of the flesh, and root milking. I'm 51, 58, brn/blue, beard, HIV-. ☎ 9754

SF over 50 gumjib wntd eyes
45, WM, 5'10, 165#, HIV-, M/d bld, br/br, musta, smoker, 7X51/2 cut cocking me kicks back for hungry milker (no teets) on reg basis. Serious gum massagers only! Leave #. ☎ 9755

GWM seeks men of color
GWM, 5'10, 165, blonde, bottom, HIV+, seeks man of color for friendship, sex, possible LTR. Mutual respect desired. ☎ 9756

Great heat in Sonoma County
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Wkday afternoon discrct cock play
GWM, 49, 6', HIV-, 161#, smooth, endowed cockringed dick in LTR ISO Xtra pleasure/play-JO, oral, kissing, exploring hands and tongue. Discreet, sane, affectionate, regular guy. All cocks=excitement-U/C AA++ ☎ 9759

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Attractive GWM ISO dildo buddies. Like dirty talk, mirrors, big tops, showing off hole. If you're top/versatile and like hot, nasty butt pounding action call now. SF also. ☎ 9760

Very cute African American
GWM, 49, 6', 160 seek HIV- aggressive tops 23-34, single, gay only. Seek a regular sex buddy and friendship. No 1 nie stand. Be honest, reliable, intelligent, serious only!! ☎ 9761

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Hot leather superbottm ISO lean leather/bondage/W/S bottoms to orally serve, submit, obey and be humiliated by. SF Bay Area. Serious. ☎ 9763

Even after 44 long years
Every time I take off my pants I thank God I'm black. I need 3 Or 4 manly oral experts to keep me satisfied. All races welcome. Serious only. ☎ 9766

Dildo/FF top for my SJ playroom
Hot leather bear GWM 39, 6'3, 230#, versatile needs ongoing training, SJ or SF. Available Saturday night, Sunday, Mondays. Serious only. No flakes, no heavy drugs. ☎ 9767

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A1 Oral service-delivered
SF GWM, HIV-, 6', handsome, delivers complete oral service to mature, trim guys who really dig getting sucked off. Your place. No reciprocation. HIV-. ☎ 9770

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big black men with large chests and lots of smooth skin to climb all over. Let's get it on. ☎ 9828

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GBM, 5'11, 240#, big tits, hung, attractive, seeks big and heavy set men into mutual dildo pleasure. Only big fat men with big tits, belly and butt. ☎ 9771

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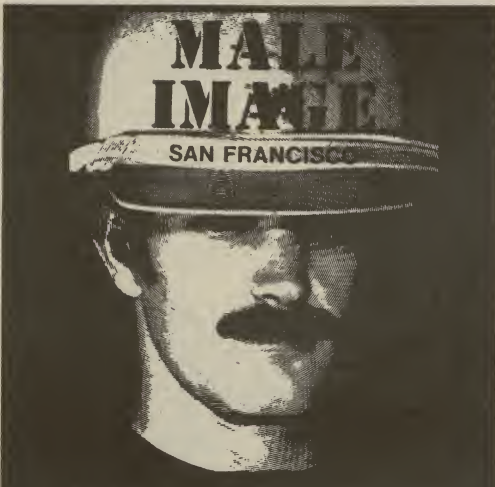
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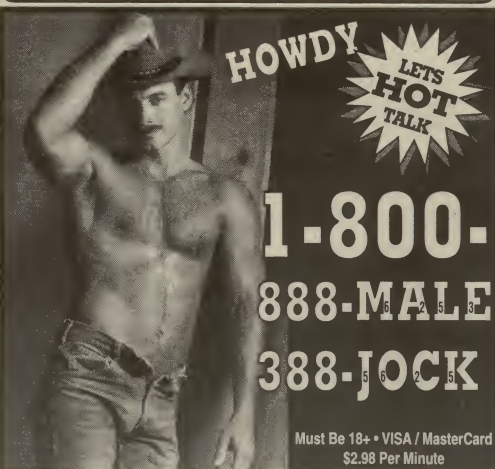
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Elizabeth Streb and Company bring Pop-Action danceworks to Zellerbach Hall January 30-31.

Defying gravity

◀ Arts cover

bounced back up and popped him in the eye.

"I'm a gravity addict," Streb confesses. "I'm interested in human flight, and everything I've done on some level or another has been an attempt to fly."

The West Coast premiere of *Fly* represents her latest attempt. Like all of Streb's work, it utilizes an imposing piece of hardware, in this case a giant, mechanical arm that moves up and down like a lever, and rotates in a circle. Equipment is this choreographer's muse and inspiration. "I'm interested in what equipment can allow the body to do," she explains.

Bolted to a fork at the end of the mechanical arm is a young, blonde woman named Hope Clark, the associate director of the company. A 400-pound counterweight effectively reduces the dancer's weight to 12 pounds, and the whole contraption is designed to confute a certain dead mathematician's theorizing by enabling her to soar. Because she wears a gyroscope belt, she can also spin in the air and walk upside down on the ceiling. In motion, she becomes an angel swooping overhead, or an avenging goddess who chases and scatters a squad of earthbound dancers. When she performs a duet with a man who is standing right-side-up, the picture on stage suggests an amazing conjunction of opposing spatial places that could never occur in nature.

For *Across*, Streb has devised a mobile platform, a raised surface that will roll across the stage while the performers attempt to dance on it. *Across* will bridge the other dances, combining vocabulary from the pieces that come before and after, in a fashion similar to a Cunningham "event." Her goal

here is to create an unstable ground, much as she did in the 1985 solo *Rollerboard*.

The Berkeley program will include favorites from the Ringside repertory. *UP!* sends six dancers flying on a hot-bed trampoline, and in *Bounce*, eight people compete for space on an eight-foot square surface. In *Freeflight*, screaming Ringsiders dive from a high scaffold and land on a pile of mats, and in *Breakthru*, a dancer crashes through a plate of glass. Streb knocks herself against the walls of a narrow box in her signature solo *Little Ease*; a team of dancers rappel across a wall in *Lookup*; and *All-Wall* offers a grand summation of the various wall-slamming dances she has created since *Backboard* in 1984.

By placing herself and her dancers in challenging situations, or "getting outside the comfort zone," as she is fond of saying, Streb has developed an original, athletic style that she calls Pop-Action. The typical Pop-Action move involves tense engagement of all the muscles as the dancer braces for impact. The body flattens, and the soles of the dancer's feet grip the floor. Streb points out that this Ringside "squeeze" forms a perfectly straight line, as opposed to a graceful balletic curve or modern dance twist. Unlike most choreographers, though, Streb doesn't care about the line. For her, the dancer's body image is incidental, without "decorative" purpose. "What the body is doing is more important than how it looks," she says. "I'm asking people to have a paradigm shift away from the body." This work isn't about steps or bodily shapes but about the pure movement energy Streb calls "the invisible force of action."

Bodies like hedgehogs

Danceworks like these celebrate toughness, and the painful struggle of human beings to overcome obstacles. Impact and the image of a human being being splattered against a wall provide Streb with a most potent metaphor. "Everyone has their own wall," Streb avows, hinting at the struggles in her own life. Of course, every non-commercial artist knows what it means to throw herself against a financial wall, then get up and throw herself at it again. But in Streb's case the wall becomes a paradoxical symbol of discipline and defiance. She stays up nights dreaming of new rules her dancers can break.

While visiting a rehearsal, I look around discreetly for some sign that a dancer has been injured (perhaps a clump of dried blood and hair stuck to the gleaming equipment, a glazed expression, a bandaged limb). But no, the dancers all seem cheerful and healthy, with nicely pumped bodies. "Look, I haven't been in

business this long because terrible things happen," Streb says. "It's mostly sports injuries, you know?" She admits, however, that to perform her work one needs the constitution of a hedgehog.

The metaphor and the onstage reality of impact also have political implications for women, Streb feels. She sees her work as liberating and empowering. "In this society, it's intense how women physically are trained from the very beginning. It's really oppressive," she says. Part of Streb's mission is to prove that even under extreme conditions the world can be safe for women, or conversely, that personal safety isn't so important. As a child, her heroes were Muhammed Ali and Joan of Arc.

Technology has helped Streb envision both performance and performance spaces in new ways. Streb's collaboration with the late videographer Michael Schwartz taught her how she could manipulate perspective. A Streb evening now stretches the boundaries of modern dance, providing more than a three-dimensional, sculptural view of the body, and the possibility of viewing dance from several angles. In her high-action theater, the ground can be a wall or a ceiling, and bodies go flying through the air. Leaving behind the limitations of the proscenium, Streb posits a theoretical world where the rules of gravity do not apply, where spatial planes can suddenly shift, and where the action sometimes resembles a computer simulation. A major initiative this season has been the construction of an aluminum box truss, a portable self-contained theater 19-and-a-half-feet high, with all the complicated rigging for the show pre-installed and run by four one-ton chain-motors. The box truss now constitutes Streb's physical energy laboratory.

Her devotion to pure dance can be seen also in her resistance to music, which, aside from being as distracting and irrelevant as symphonic accompaniment at a tennis match, would impose its own structure on the movement. For Streb, timing is emergent, a matter of physical efficiency.

According to David White, executive director and producer of New York's Dance Theater Workshop, and an early admirer, this choreographer "is helping to revitalize what we think of as dance, not only what it is, but what it does in relationship to the rest of society." Like the astronauts, he says, Streb "brings wonder and enthusiasm to the idea of serious exploration." ▼

Elizabeth Streb and Company perform Friday and Saturday, January 30-31 in Zellerbach Hall at UC Berkeley. For tickets (\$18-\$30) and info, call (510) 642-9988.

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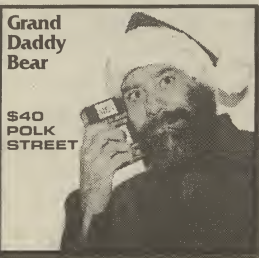
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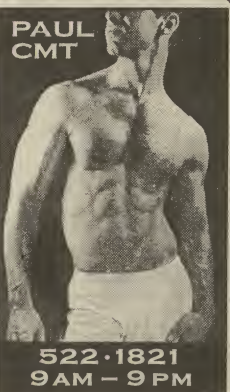
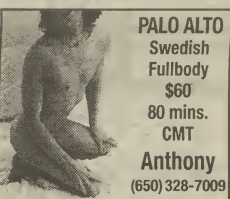
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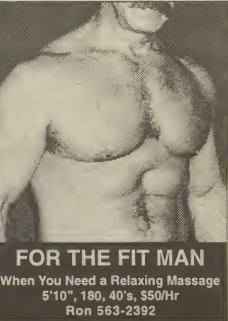
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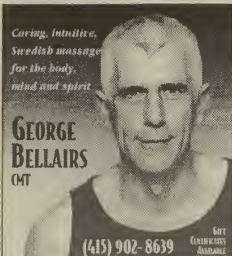
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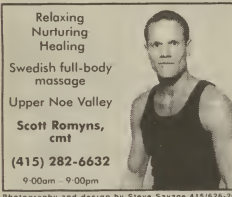
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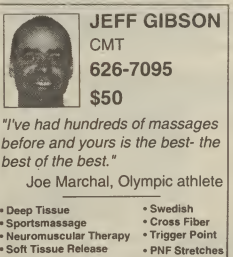
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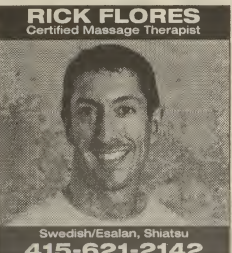
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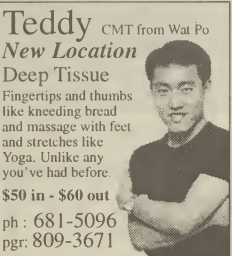
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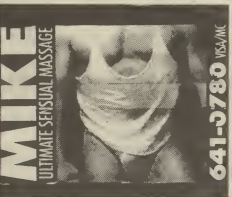
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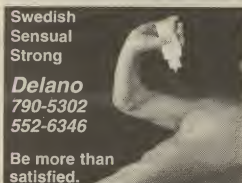


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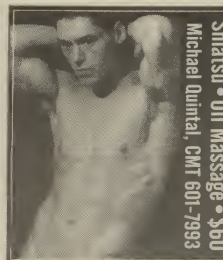
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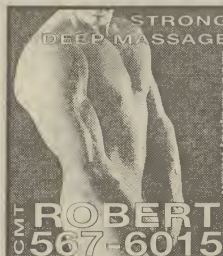
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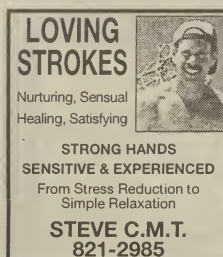
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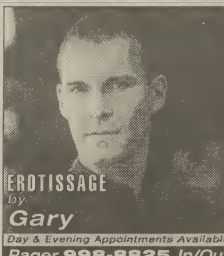
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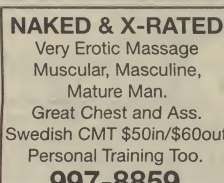
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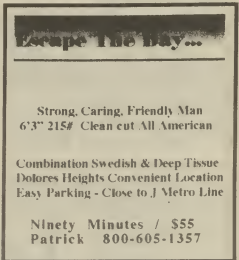
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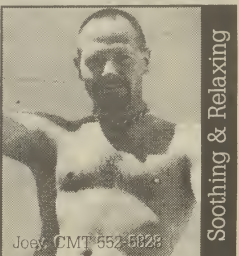
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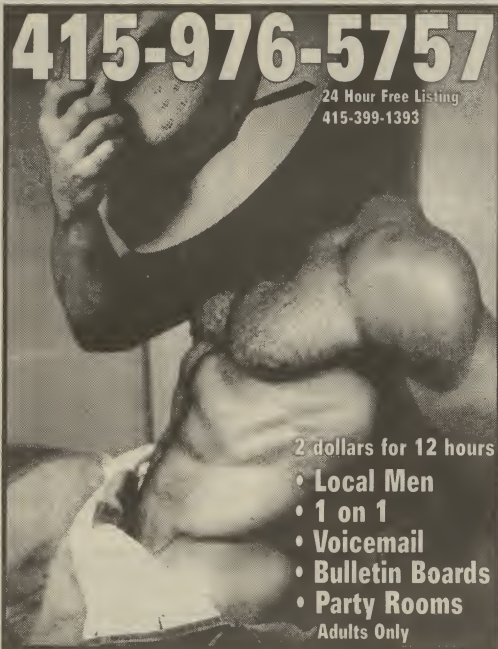
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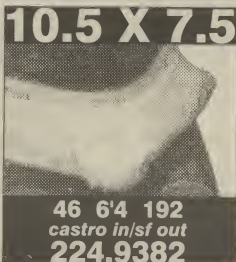
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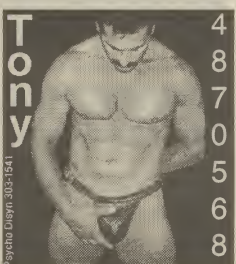
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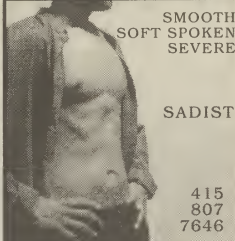
LEATHER/SM/FANTASY 39yo Top,6'1",195#,7"uncut,flattop mustache.Gd lking.Into bondage,S/M W/S,CBT,F/F,most scenes,Beginner? Have playspace & equipment. 3way avail @porn star Frank Parker Scott (415)790-0902 Pg#. In or out E04

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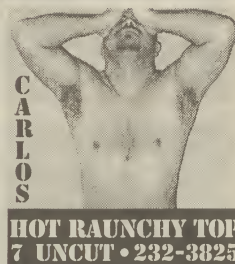
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CLASSIC ASIAN
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FF to most rear actions.
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\$60/In Days OK Mark 864-7811

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Have equipment and playspace
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6', 180#, brown hair & eyes, 42C, 32W,
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25yr Canadian boy
6', 150#, 8 inches, 24hr, Hot magick
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Discretion assured, outcalls only

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Big build, hung versatile
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Long, tall, lean, blond, blue eyed Te
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Extremely masculine,
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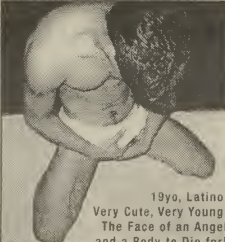
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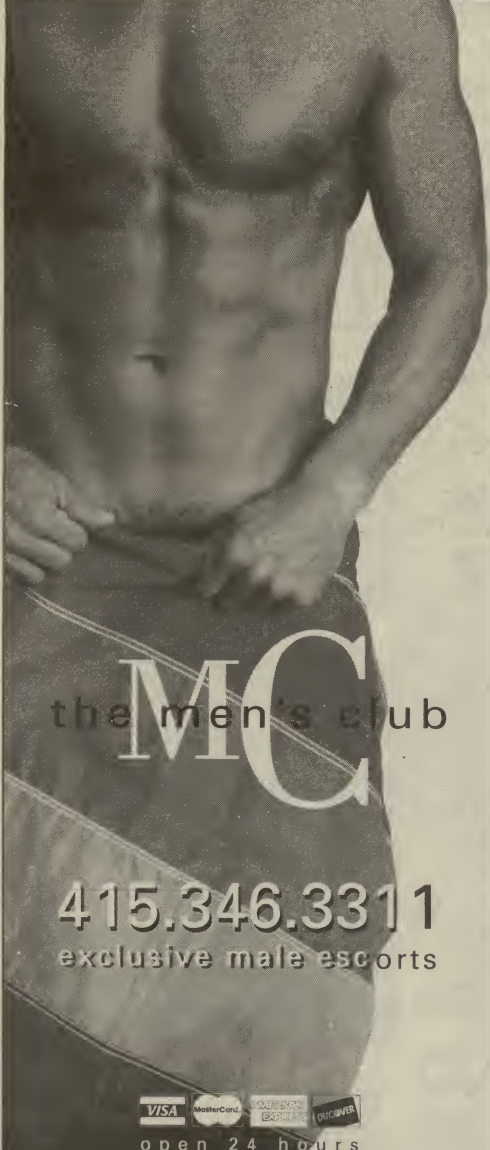
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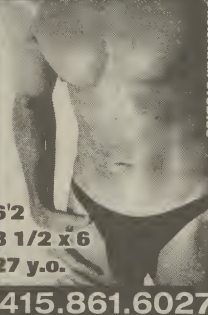
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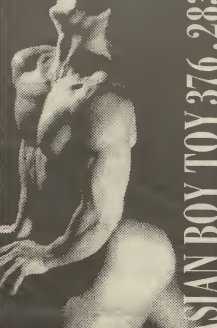
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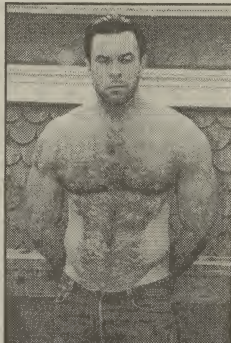
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MODELS/ESCORTS

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135 lbs
24 yr



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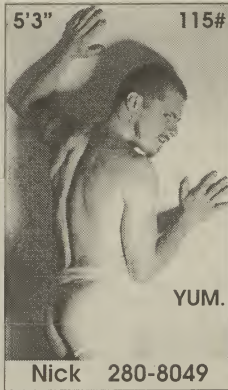


Trevor Dagon 207-3688
Back from Amsterdam till Summer

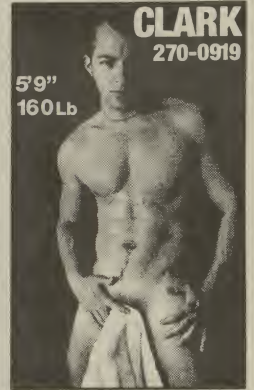
KEER
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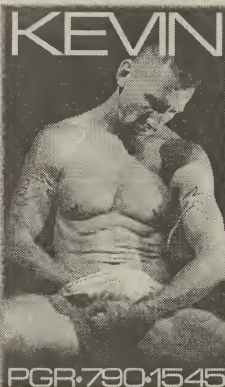
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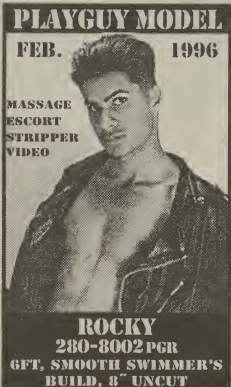
5'3" 115#
YUM.
Nick 280-8049



CLARK
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5'9"
160Lb



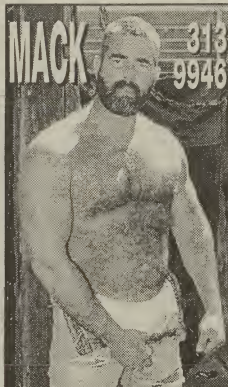
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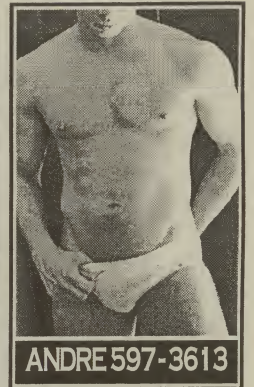
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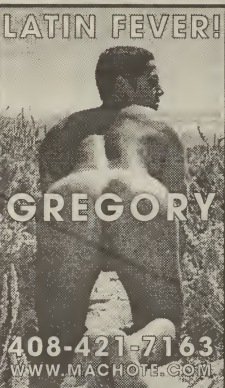
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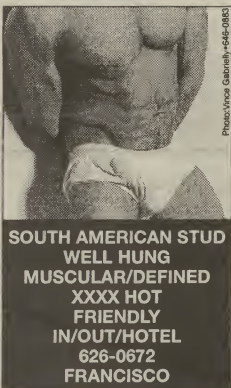
MACK 313
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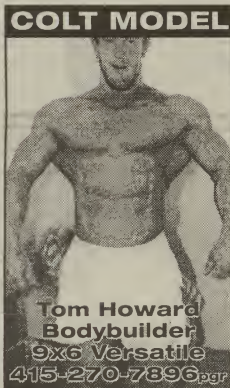
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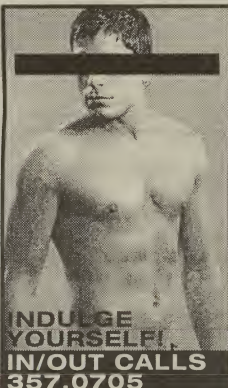
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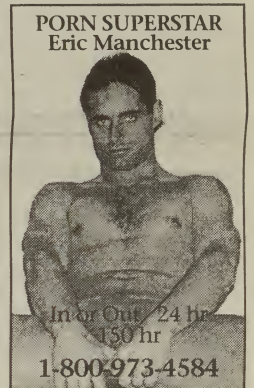
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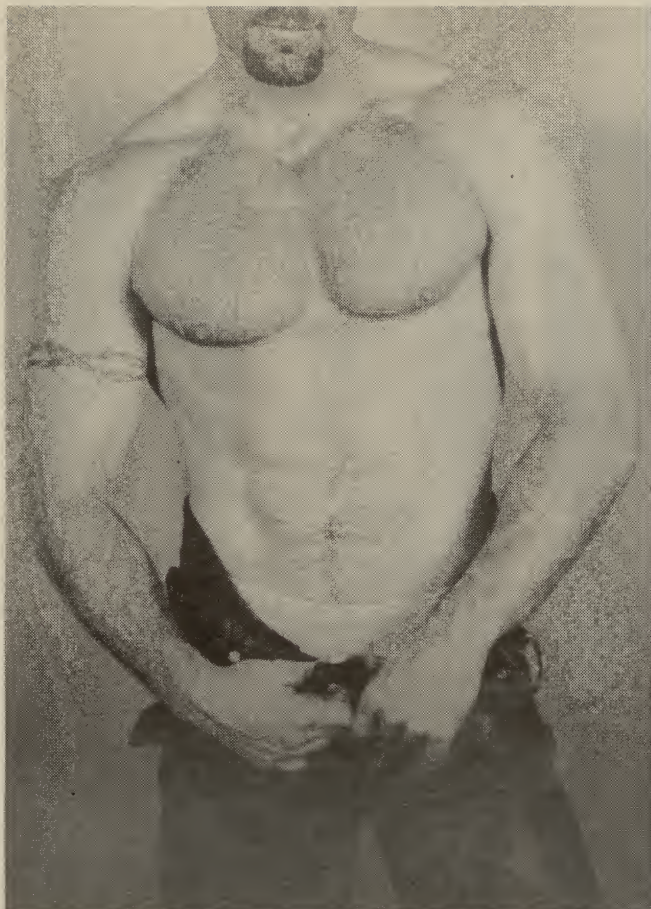
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